

NEWS IN BRIEF

Governor of Amman retires

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Governor Ali Al Bashir has retired on pension upon his own request, according to a report in the local press on Tuesday. Mr. Bashir had earlier served as minister of interior and he held a number of other government posts.

Jordan, Algeria discuss trade exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Means to facilitate trade exchange between Jordan and Algeria were discussed Tuesday during a meeting between a visiting Algerian economic delegation and the president and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry. At the meeting it was agreed in principle to organise an exhibition of Algerian products in Jordan in November. Also discussed was the idea of Jordan holding an industrial exhibition in Algeria. The two sides also discussed increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Centres to watch food prices in Ramadan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade Tuesday issued instructions to directors of supply departments in various governorates requesting them to keep strict control on the prices of food during the holy month of Ramadan. The ministry's statement stressed the need for merchants to abide by prices for basic commodities consumed by people during Ramadan. The instructions also asked the directors to pay special attention to the quality of bread being prepared by bakeries during the holy month.

Karak joins fund raising effort

KARAK (Petra) — Fifteen committees have been set up in Karak to organise a campaign for raising funds for the Amal Cancer Centre. The three-day campaign, starting Wednesday, is being launched by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) and expects to raise contributions from the public and various organisations to build the projected centre. The "knock at the door" campaign is being launched throughout the country.

Deir Alla holds cleanliness campaign

DEIR ALLA (Petra) — A two-day cleanliness campaign has ended at Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley. The campaign, held in observance of Arab Health Day, entailed removing stones and earth from streets and spraying pesticides and insecticides. Health inspection teams also toured different regions to ensure that health and safety regulations are being respected.

French warships call at Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two French warships belonging to the French fleet in the Indian Ocean, the command and supply ship "Var" and the Destroyer "Amiral Charner" are paying a courtesy call to Aqaba from April 29 to May 4. Admiral Le Melede, commander of the French Navy in the Indian Ocean will be on board the "Var" and Admiral Le Melede's predecessor, Admiral Lefebvre, had also paid a courtesy call to Aqaba, with the "Var" escorted by the Destroyer "Dupetit-Touhars" in 1984.

New book on bedouins to go on sale soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new book entitled "Notes on Bedouins," originally written by John Louis Burchardt (1810-1817) and translated by Dr. Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, will be in circulation during the next few days. The book is supported by comments and explanations about bedouin customs and developments in Jordanian society. Dr. Abbadi is in the process of publishing many books on Jordan and its tribes.

Ramtha centre destroys bad fruit

RAMTHA (Petra) — Nearly 20 tonnes of fruit have been destroyed at the border post of Ramtha after being found unfit for human consumption, according to spokesmen for the Ramtha agricultural centre. He said that another vehicle carrying 10 tonnes of fruit was turned back for the same reason. The spokesman said that last week the centre refused to allow 340 kilograms of pears into Jordan as they were found to be unfit for consumption. The centre also destroyed 100 kilograms of apples for the same reason.

Soviet nuclear plant ablaze

(Continued from page 1)

Residents in Kiev reported no signs of the nuclear accident. One Kiev resident said by telephone Ukraine Radio was assuring listeners there was no danger from radiation. "Everything is completely normal here. The scene of the accident is far away and it is not as dangerous as the rumours say," he said.

As speculation mounted in the West over what happened at Chernobyl, Western commentators called on the Soviet Union to open more of its nuclear power plants to international inspection.

The Kiev reactor was a light water-cooled graphite moderator reactor, type RBMK, which is unique to the Soviet Union, according to sources at the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Soviet Union has 28 such plants, in which the nuclear reaction takes place in channels bored into graphite blocks, with a total capacity of 15,616 megawatts.

In all there are 51 nuclear power plants in operation in the Soviet Union producing a total 27,756 megawatts.

The Atomic Forum spokesman cited West German experts as saying that if the graphite had caught fire then it appeared virtually certain that the reactor core had melted and released enormous amounts of radiation.

Egyptian premier voices satisfaction

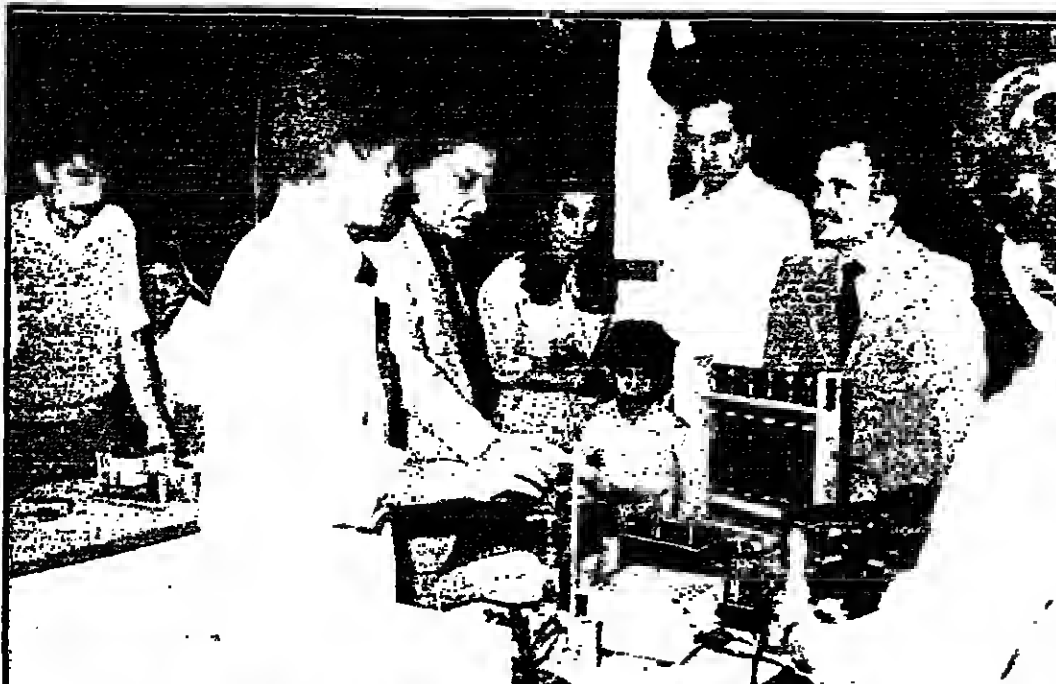
(Continued from page 1)

The Egyptian government has recently built a road between Suez and Nuweibeh, shortening the distance by 170 kilometres and this will no doubt boost the new route linking the two countries. Dr. Miftah said the route serves 550,000 passengers over the past year.

Jordan and Egypt, he said, have

set up several other projects and established a holding company with a \$50 million capital. The joint company will set up several projects including a plant for producing animal feed and meat, he said.

The Egyptian prime minister also praised Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in agriculture and information, tourism and education.



IBS OPEN DAY — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath attend an open day organised by the International Baccalaureate School (IBS) in Amman. The Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath toured the various activities which are part of the two-day event. The open-day includes exhibitions of the student's paintings, drawings, pottery and ceramics and the facilities at the school are also open to the public including laboratories, computers, the library and various departments teaching English, Arabic, French, social sciences, humanities and arts. The open-day ends Wednesday. The school was established in 1981 and Princess Sarvath is chairman of the school's board of trustees. Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath also attended a festival and performance organised by the students. The event included dances, songs and music. There are 300 students enrolled for the scholastic year 1985-1986.

PSD organises road safety campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Motorists causing road accidents between May 1 and May 15 will be forced to attend at least four lectures on traffic regulations, in accordance with instructions issued by Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed. This was announced Tuesday by the Public Security Department (PSD) which is at present involved in preparing a wide-scale campaign to spread awareness among members of the public about the need to reduce road accidents.

The campaign, coinciding with Jordan's observance of International Traffic Day, entails employing all the information media to alert public attention to traffic regulations and ways to minimise accidents on the road.

Between April 8 and April 15, the traffic police registered 2,016 traffic violations in Jordan of which 415 were for speeding as

recorded by radar monitoring systems, the PSD said in a statement at the start of the campaign. Many of these violations, the statement said, reflect the violators' total disregard for public safety regulations. The statement called on all drivers to abide by all traffic regulations and to avoid any violation which could endanger public safety.

In the first three months of 1986, the statement said, police registered a total of 3,537 traffic violations which caused the death of 92 people and the injury of 1,684 others. Most of these violations occurred in the Amman region, followed by Zarqa, Irbid and Karak, the statement added.

The Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA) plans to hold a one-day symposium on May 7 to study measures which could help reduce

the number of road accidents in the country. The symposium will review recommendations issued by earlier symposiums and will study five major working papers dealing with the role of education and information to spread public awareness about road safety, the role of police, road conditions and other related topics.

The JSPRA is also helping in the general campaign to spread awareness about road accidents and ways to reduce the risk of accidents and has enlisted the help of university professors, lawyers, doctors and engineers as well as the traffic police to deliver lectures on the subject.

Earlier, the JSPRA sent memos to all government departments requesting their assistance to help the society make roads in Jordan safer.

Hamzeh opens health camp in Mafrak

MAFRAK (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Tuesday opened a health camp at Mafrak in Mafrak Governorate where 17 specialists will be offering free medical services to the public for two days. The camp is also showing films, staging seminars and distributing pamphlets, all dealing with health affairs. During the camp there will also be an exhibition of medical books and a vaccination campaign will be carried out.

At the opening of the camp, several local notables made speeches paying tribute to the Health Ministry for expanding its services to all regions. They also presented a request for establishing an integrated health centre and a dentistry clinic and asked that the town of Mafrak be provided with an ambulance.

The governor of Mafrak along with the city's mayor and other local officials were present at the opening ceremony. Later, the minister paid inspection visits to health and medical centres in the neighbouring regions.

Dr. Hamzeh later visited Irbid where he attended the annual festival of the nursing college. In a speech on the occasion, Dr. Hamzeh said that the Health Ministry has recently purchased 115 dunams of land for building a new hospital which is required to cope with the increasing demand for health services in the governorate.

Work on the project, he said, is expected to start in the coming few weeks and funds have been allocated for carrying out the first phase.

The project will be called the King Abdullah Medical Project and the hospital will be able to accommodate 400 patients, the minister said. In addition, the Health Ministry has decided to set up an integrated health centre in Irbid.

The three-day festival displays the activities of the health services, the blood bank, laboratories and the first aid departments in the governorate.

Council convenes to discuss Palestinian education issues

AMMAN (Petra) — A Council in charge of Palestinian educational affairs opened its 17th meeting in Amman on Tuesday to discuss educational issues pertaining to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Taking part in the five-day meeting are representatives from Jordan, Syria, Palestine and the Arab League.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Ahmad Al Bashairah, the secretary general of the Ministry of Education, who underlined the need for providing education to Palestinians inside as well as outside the occupied territories. He said that education would enable them to confront the Israeli aggression and the continued Israeli occupation of Palestine.

He said that the Ministry of Education in Jordan has given special attention to this question and has introduced courses to define Zionism, its ideologies and Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Arab land. The ministry also has programmes to highlight the cultural heritage of the Palestinian people in their homeland, he continued.

The meeting at the Amman Hotel in Amman, was also addressed by Dr. Muhammad Al Farra, Arab League assistant secretary general, who spoke about Israel's designs and the need to support the Palestinians in their efforts to confront Israeli schemes.

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Researchers discuss joint Arab action as a means to achieve independent regional progress

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The role of joint Arab action in achieving independent development in the Arab World came under discussion on the fourth and last day of a seminar organised here by the Centre for Arab Unity Studies.

Participants at the seminar, which was held to discuss "Independent Development in the Arab World," drew out patterns of economic policies that they believe, if adopted, would promote the establishment of independent development in Arab states.

A consensus that emerged among researchers and scientists at the seminar emphasised the responsibility of the west for divisions in the Arab World, its backwardness and weaknesses on all social, economic and political levels.

They unanimously agreed that the only way to stronger economies in Arab states, hence, a more coherent Arab strategy, was through Arab integration and unity, away from western control and patronage.

In a paper presented on the role of joint Arab action in achieving independent development, Dr. Muhammad Imam, an economic counsellor at the Arab Monetary Fund, said that there was a basic need in the ruling circles in the Arab World to look at development as a multi-faceted comprehensive concept with all its economic, social and political aspects.

New approach

Dr. Imam stressed the need for a new approach to development by handling it from the perspective of independence as opposed to subservience. He said one of the basic components of an independent economy is "self-reliance in the satisfaction of the basic humanitarian needs in the fields of energy and food."

Dr. Imam also called for developing national abilities in the field of technology and production with the aim of satisfying these needs and fulfilling security requirements.

"Dr. Imam maintains in his paper that joint Arab action has so far, had a limited impact on the process of development in the Arab World. In reference to the Arab League decision to establish the Arab Common Market, he said the decision was only one of 856 resolutions issued by 41 sessions of the unity council throughout a period of 20 years."

At the beginning, Dr. Imam said, the trend was to go in the direction of joint projects, mainly towards coordination in the agricultural and industrial fields. He said it was not the fault of the institutions entrusted with drawing up policies for this economic integration, but it was the fault of governments which paralysed these moves.

Assessing efforts that have been exerted by Arab organisations, Dr. Imam said Arab economic integration did not focus on liberating trade, although efforts towards coordination were there at the very beginning. He said that the greatest burden was carried by countries and their systems which have lost their sense of the meaning of integration.

The economic counsellor said that the spontaneous flow of money in certain Arab states, which was not accompanied with technological know-how or a basic industrial base, led to more dependence of the industrial world, whether in oil or non-oil producing states.

Food security

"Despite repeated warning from the problem of food security," Dr. Imam said, "food shortages are worsening and there are no indications that things will improve, even in the case of the implementation of joint Arab projects."

He also said that national security is deteriorating with several wars and divisions in the region, especially in the three states that were considered the hope for solving the problem of food security: Sudan, Iraq and Morocco.

The revenue gap

In another paper on "The Development of the Revenue Gap and Conditions for Independent Development," which was prepared jointly by Dr. Abdul Aziz Saqqaf and Dr. Othman Othman, two experts from the Yemen Arab Republic, reviewed economic development in their country, and

the problems that are hindering its development.

The paper said that a study of the Yemeni economy indicated the responsibility of the imbalance that exist between production and consumption, for the wide gap in revenues and the constant need for more foreign borrowing to handle expenditure, both in investments as well as consumption.

"With the scarcity of natural resources and production, and the increase in the remittances from expatriates, Yemen could be the only country whose consumption expenditure exceeds its local product."

Dr. Yusef Sayegh, an economist from Lebanon, presented a paper entitled "Towards an Independent Development in the Arab World." In his paper, Dr. Sayegh concludes that the independent development which depends on the nation itself "is generally embodied in the assumption of internal economic, political and ideological positions, with a view on the rest of the world within the will to achieve independence."

Defined evolution

Dr. Sayegh said that to achieve that, requires a more defined evolution and implementation of democratic principles, popular political participation and a steady movement towards Arab unity. He said that it also requires securing the highest possible level of social justice.

"In order for all that to be possible, basic and radical changes on the educational system," Dr. Sayegh told the seminar.

In the field of economy, independent development, according to Dr. Sayegh, depends on the ability of Arab states to coordinate views on developmental goals. He said that decision-makers in the Arab World carry the responsibility of taking into consideration as a priority the needs and the interests of the people.

"Political, economic and intellectual leaderships are invited to learn from the people, especially those who are more deprived, that is if there is going to be an independent development," Dr. Sayegh said.

UAE airline signs agreement with local travel agency

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) Airways has authorised the Azraq Travel Agency to be its agent in Jordan under an agreement signed between the airline and the local agency on Saturday.

The United Arab Emirates Airways started its operations on Oct. 25, 1985 and it will start a link between Amman and Dubai on June 1 this year. According to the agreed schedule, there will be four flights a week between Dubai and Amman on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

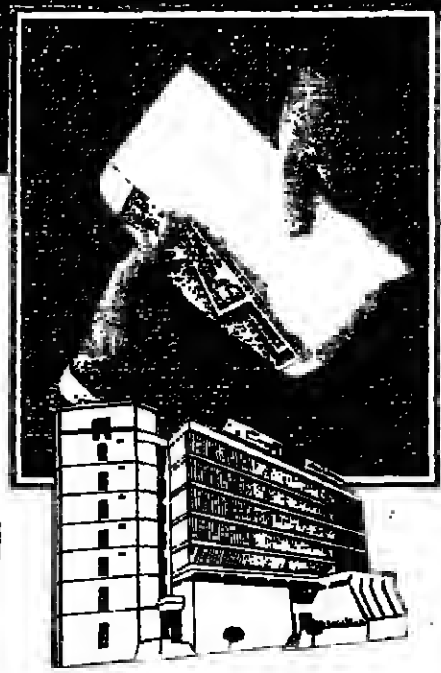
The United Arab Emirates Airways uses Boeings and Airbus and for its flights between Amman and Dubai it will use Boeing 737 aircraft.

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Strategy for development

THE Arab economies have been major victims of recent erratic changes in the world oil market. The fluctuations in world oil demand and supply have had a magnified impact on Arab revenues, and their repercussions are transmitted to all the economies in the Arab region. The experiences of the past few years clearly demonstrate the pitfalls inherent in the unpredictable character of the oil market, whose adverse consequences are felt in both the upward and downward phases of the cycle. Thus the revenues of the Arab countries jumped from \$77 billion in 1978 to \$213 billion in 1980, with the expectation that they might rise even higher in 1981. However, they declined equally suddenly to \$114 billion in 1983, and they have been falling ever since, with the prospect of larger reductions due to downward pressures on price and to the depreciation of the dollar. Such fluctuations would undoubtedly put enormous stresses on the economy of any country. But the fluctuations particularly affect the Arab countries, as their economies are all still in the early stages of development and largely dependent on this commodity with its erratic behaviour. The problems have been compounded by the lack of a coordinated long-term Arab strategy on oil and economic development. Instead, Arab policies have been preoccupied with the short-term vagaries of the market, reacting to events over which they exercise little control. This preoccupation has been evident in the tendency of Arab countries, as well as other OPEC producers, to increase their production to excessively high levels when market conditions are tight, thereby raising the possibility of rapid depletion of their oil wealth and over-reliance on their economies. Conversely, they reduce their production to unacceptably low levels when there is a market glut. In either case, there are inconsistencies between their long-term interests and short-term exigencies. During the past few years, reductions in current public expenditure and the consequent decline in almost all economic activities have been accompanied by the cancellation of many projects and by drastic cuts in the funds allocated to development plans and to joint Arab projects and cooperative activities. The continuation of such measures will have a damaging impact on the long-term prospects of all the Arab countries. Therefore, far-sighted policies are needed to counteract the adverse consequences of these measures and to reduce the effect of over-dependence on oil. Any measures adopted to deal with short-term problems should also consider their implications on the Arab economies in the decades to come. Needless to say, the approach should be based on the coordination of development plans and on cooperation between the Arab countries to minimise the impact of short-term turbulence. The political differences among Arab regimes should be dealt with as temporary phenomena and should not be allowed to impinge on the realisation of their strategic objectives. Intra-Arab organisations and joint institutions, if given more support and confidence from member states, can make this very difficult task possible — O.A.P.E.C. Bulletin.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Talks for better future

THE prime ministers of Egypt and Jordan made statements just before convening the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee meeting, expressing their determination to go ahead with the march towards economic integration between their two countries. Both voiced their satisfaction with what the two sides have achieved so far and underlined the importance of holding further meetings that would result in reaching more agreements that would serve the higher interests of the two peoples. Indeed, the two countries have wide avenues for cooperation and different areas which can be cultivated for the common good. The door has been left open for other Arab countries to join in the common effort and the two sides have clearly indicated that their cooperation forms a nucleus for a greater one leading towards pan-Arab prosperity and progress. Joint coordination and cooperation is one aspect of joint action that can offer guarantees for the Arab world for a bright future and serve as a shield, protecting the nation against external threats.

Al Dustour: Bolstering relations

JORDAN and Egypt Monday opened yet another round of talks designed to bolster bilateral relations further and promote their cooperation in all fields. The on-going meetings between the two sides initiated by the heads of the two countries in 1984 give rise to optimism and increase self-confidence against a background of turbulent Arab World. As other parts of the Arab World are embroiled in their side disputes, Egypt and Jordan pursue firm steps leading to a total economic and social integration. The leaderships of Egypt and Jordan are determined to work for the best interest of their people, setting a good example for all the Arab countries. The higher committee now convening in Amman is implementing what the leaderships in Cairo and Amman have previously decided on, and the talks are being held in an atmosphere of friendship and cordiality, quite determined to overcome all obstacles and reaching the aspired goal. We wish the committee all success.

Sawt Al Shaab: In pursuit of progress

AMMAN has always served as an arena for every joint Arab action designed to achieve economic integration among Arab states. Amman has always sought to achieve a firm and solid basis for a joint action with all Arab countries in implementation of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. It is in Amman that the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Joint Committee is now holding meetings with aim of achieving this integration and the aspired Arab goals. The meeting is another step forward towards integration and towards bolstering of relations, and a show of determination on the part of both leaderships to pursue all efforts, leading towards progress. The two countries are forming a nucleus for a pan-Arab action in the economic field, and their close cooperation does not form a negative element, but rather a positive one for all Arabs. The close cooperation between Amman and Cairo is not being made at the expense of other Arab capitals, but rather a means for bringing different Arab capitals together and keeping the channels open for an all-out integration.

A yen for growth: Japan and superpower economics

By Riad Khouri

WHATEVER may be the case politically and militarily, there is only one economic superpower in the world today and that's the U.S. This has been so since the end of World War II and looks like it will continue to be for a while yet. Should another economy emerge to rival the American's it almost certainly looks like being Japan's. The Soviet Union for all its power remains backward relative to the U.S. which is still able to grow and develop unlike any other economy. The Americans along with the Japanese have just undertaken another revolutionary step in the field of computers, leaving the USSR still far behind. The latter still encounters stiff consumer resistance in Japan which is the U.S.'s second largest trading partner and is held responsible for the loss of American jobs due to cheap imports.

Will these and other changes be easy to make? Asked about the structural adjustments necessary to cut Japan down to size in the international market, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone replied that they will cause "tremendous political difficulties" and encounter "strong resistance from

talking about effecting a historic change in their culture to accommodate Western markets and interests. The U.S. and other Western states import enormous amounts of Japan's products and complain that they are hurt by this one-way commerce. Among other suggestions, it has been proposed that the work week in Japan be cut from six to five days, wages be raised, consumers encouraged to spend more on housing and other personal comforts, and personal savings reduced from their current level which is the highest in the industrial world. It is thus hoped that Japan's exports would become scarcer and more expensive and a domestic climate more conducive to imports be created. The latter still encounter stiff consumer resistance in Japan which is the U.S.'s second largest trading partner and is held responsible for the loss of American jobs due to cheap imports.

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bureaucrats." But, he added, "we believe the Japanese people at large are becoming more and more aware of the critical situation of Japan in the context of the international community" and so was hopeful that something could be done.

Over the short-term, the foreign exchange markets may partially reduce the "critical situation of Japan." As the yen rises, exporting may become more difficult and imports more attractive for the Japanese. And this may slow down growth. Last year Japanese gross national product (GNP) went up by close to 5 per cent, but the outlook for 86 looks poorer. A stronger yen will hurt exporters and make them uncompetitive. On the other hand, lower oil prices and lower interest rates may make up for the appreciating currency. If not, pessimists see Japan's growth this year as around 3 per cent or less.

Japan's "critical situation" is simply that its people are too successful for the comfort of neighbours and "allies" such as the United States. But as long as the Americans control Japan's defence and its food supplies it will remain subordinate to the U.S.

and apologetic over its success. Sooner or later though something will have to give and the Japanese may once again break out of their archipelago just as they did half a century ago. The same applies to the Germans: Reunify them and the whole economic map of Europe would change and with it the political situation in a way which is difficult to imagine. Meanwhile the mark and yen appreciate and enormous trade surpluses are racked up by the Japanese and Germans.

But back in the hapless Third World, a "critical situation" really does exist. Enormous foreign debt in Latin America, starvation and malnutrition in Africa, the oil price collapse in the Middle East and falling growth rates in the Far East mean that the poorer South of the globe is in crisis. Does this worry the Americans too much? Not really, although it should. The U.S. is the world's economic leader. As such it has responsibilities towards the rest of us, and I'm not talking about sheer altruism either. The Americans should realise that less bullying and exploitation of the Third World and a more sensible approach to the problems of underdevelopment will bring

benefits to everybody. For a long time now there has been talk of a new world economic order. Without the U.S., this will remain simply talk. But if the Americans become convinced that their own self-interest lies in the stability and prosperity of the Third World, a new system of international economics could emerge. Any chance of this happening? Probably not. The Americans seem to have reverted to their old policies of confrontation and manipulation. One would have thought that all this came to an end with the U.S. defeat in Vietnam, but it now looks otherwise.

In other words everybody is going to be in for a period of uncertainty and instability as the Americans once again run amok in the Third World and elsewhere. "Keeping down" the Germans and Japanese is simply a continuation of World War II by other means. As for American military action in Libya and other places, this is just an extension of the gunboat diplomacy of the early 20th Century as well as a follow-up to Vietnam. Unfortunately, the Middle East stands to suffer enormously from such attitudes if only because the U.S. is more than happy to see its Israeli client wea-

kening and terrorising the region.

So much for the new international economic order. As long as the Americans have this need to assert their machismo, the world will remain unstable, and big parts of it will continue struggling against poverty. What can the Third World do about this? Not much, but we might begin with local elites and the rest of the population ceasing to kowtow to the U.S. and slavishly accepting its dictates and whims. The developing states can also play off the various big powers against each other. Most important of all, national institutions will have to be constructed and strengthened to guarantee some measure of economic independence. Who knows: One day the Americans and others may turn to a unified prosperous and stable Middle East and ask it to please stop exporting so much. A dream? Maybe, but not aiming for such goals will permanently relegate our region to the role of an economic backwater and political wasteland.

Riad Khouri is a Beirut-based economic consultant. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

The spy who came in from Kuwait

The following article is reprinted from The Voice of the Arab World.

LONDON — Writer Tom Mangold has described in a BBC "Panorama" television programme called "The Defectors" the astonishing fate of Russians who go over to the American side. Instead of being cradled in the arms of Uncle Sam as privileged people, they often end up as the Botsam and jetsam of American society.

Each year, about a hundred "special-case" Soviet defectors are allowed permanent sanctuary in the United States in return for the special services they have contributed to the U.S. government. The CIA handles the cases, their debriefing and their resettlement in the United States.

But it is that third function which is giving all the trouble. The resettlement department, known as the "Domestic Contacts" division of the CIA, is not always staffed by the agency's highest flyers. After the first excitement of the "defection" is over the Russians appear to be not at all well treated in terms of understanding or conditions.

One interesting case study taken up by Tom Mangold was that of a Soviet diplomat, Dr. Vladimir Sakharov, who defected privately in Kuwait, spied on Soviet embassy activities in Kuwait for the CIA, and later publicly defected to America.

You would suppose such a man would be highly rewarded. That, at least, is what we assume from fictional stories. However, once his use as an intelligence agent is over and he has publicly defected, such a man is, according to this BBC report, more abused and neglected than honoured.

Dr. Vladimir Sakharov, the defector from the Soviet embassy in Kuwait, is described as tall, handsome, rather spoiled, coming as he does from that Moscow privileged elite guaranteed the best of everything. He was soon flying high in the Soviet foreign ministry, and was working as an attaché in the Soviet embassy in Kuwait when he broke with communism and his country.

The local Kuwaiti CIA man begged him to remain "in place" as long as he could, before physically defecting. So Sakharov worked for the CIA in Kuwait in what is described as "the most dangerous way possible."

But when at last he arrived in Washington having finally defected, his new CIA masters treated him like a jerk. They ordered him to change his name, and gave him the identity of a German.

Then they shipped him out to Hollywood and dumped him in a motel where rooms were let by the house for commercial sex and where "you didn't want to look at the mattress." Then they advised him to go on a motel management course.

His fellow "students" on the course, reports Tom Mangold, were two winos and a couple of former lobby-whores wringing their way up the management ladder. In fact, Sakharov was only being trained to be a sort of bell captain. Despite weekly visits by his CIA minder ("Everything OK, Vladimir?"), Dr. Sakharov was going downhill fast. He had become a drunk and was living with a prostitute.

When the motel management school went bankrupt, the CIA suggested Sakharov sold shoes or drove a taxi (he did both). Later, it suggested this talented, bilingual former diplomat become a guide at Disneyland, so he bought a canary-coloured suit and a funny

flower tie — but failed to get any job.

One day, after seeing his reflection in a bar window in Hollywood ("I saw a fat, drunken jerk" he told Tom Mangold), he began to pull himself together. He told the CIA he wanted his name back. He wanted help finding a respectable new career, and he wanted it now. The CIA threatened to axe his small annuity (eventually it did), and also warned him that he had better stay hidden: 16 KGB agents had recently landed at New York's JFK airport with a contract to assassinate him. Sakharov called their bluff (No Soviet defector is known to have been bumped off by the KGB in America, unless you want to include Trotsky).

Eventually, a sympathetic CIA handler helped him enter the University of Southern California, giving him a break that would change his life. With the help of an organisation called the Jamestown Foundation which has been established as a Washington charity to help these "forgotten men" who defect from Russia, he has now secured a teaching post at the University of Arizona. Through his own efforts he is now working America's profitable lecture circuit, making \$3,500 per lecture. Sakharov's future looks tolerable, but it was a near thing.

Tom Mangold's fascinating truth of what really happens to U.S. research post but was placed on arrival in New York in a cheap Broadway hotel surrounded by junkies and hookers. Another defector, a professor from Odessa, was also dumped in a grubby hotel and is today preparing to try for a job as a taxi driver — if he can get such a post.

There is now this organisation called the Jamestown Foundation that is trying to help the apparently abandoned defectors, men who have often left wife, children and everything precious in human existence to go over to the West. Tom Mangold in an article in the BBC weekly, "The Listener," says the "quiet and necessary work of the Jamestown Foundation, is at last producing some positive results. There are now moves to create a sort of defector's charter which will entitle those who qualify to more than a quick debriefing, a couple of quid to be getting on with and a pat on the back. The days when the CIA, in secret, and for its own eccentric reasons, gives or denies a defector a decent pension, or retraining programme, or new career, may soon be over.

The "charter," says Tom Mangold, would guarantee a decent annuity, U.S. citizenship granted more quickly, language training and a custom-made retraining programme for those who cannot transfer their skills from East to West.

It may indeed be difficult to find a new role for a defectoring Soviet pilot or diplomat, but it should not be impossible. Once Washington tries a little harder, the dignity and self-respect — the most precious acquisition for any defector — will follow automatically.

The "Panorama" programme "The Defectors" is one of those brilliant pieces of investigative journalism which has given the BBC a worldwide reputation for objectivity.

Distorted images of Arab political action in the Israeli press

By Joel Greenberg
The Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV — On two occasions last month, Arabs in Israel and the West Bank have held mass nationalist demonstrations which received wide coverage in the Israeli press: at the March 3 funeral of Nablus mayor Zafar Al Masri and on Land Day, March 30.

Because the press mirrors public opinion no less than it moulds it, a look at the coverage given the demonstrations provides a revealing insight into popular Israeli perceptions of Arab political expression in Israel and the occupied territories.

Al Masri's funeral became what was perhaps the largest Palestinian nationalist demonstration ever held in the West Bank. While much of the procession was made up of older men, the professional elite of Nablus, who marched solemnly and in silence, the youth of Nablus, who also carried the coffin, used the occasion to stage a pro-PLO march which, while not lacking in emotional fervour, remained orderly and non-violent.

While the morning papers described the procession as generally calm, the afternoon press presented it differently. The papers' approach was typified by two front-page colour photographs of

the procession, captioned respectively "Hated" and "A nationalist storm." The papers variously described the demonstration as a "riot" or a "stormy demonstration" which was handled "with great restraint" by Israeli security forces. In fact, there was no need at the procession for crowd control, and no security forces were to be seen except for a handful of policemen who, according to one paper, were "afraid to wade into the mob which ran riot in the streets."

The expressions of emotion at the funeral, typical of Arab political demonstrations, were widely described in menacing terms. The Muslim call to prayer "thundered" from minarets throughout the city, matched only by the "deafening" wail of car horns and the "thunderous" beat of drums played by members of the Muslim Brotherhood. The chanting crowds were variously described as "an excited mob" and "groups of inflamed youths," led by a demonstrator who "roared 'Palestine is Arab!'"

The whole city of Nablus was depicted as a "volcano" overcome by a "stormy outburst of emotions." The removal of Al Masri's body from his coffin and its passage from hand to hand to his tomb was described as the work of

"an unrestrained mob" which "descended on the coffin," broke it, and "seized the body," carrying it off for burial.

The press's vision of chaos was echoed recently by a high official "responsible" for the territories. He said the funeral's takeover by "thugs" typified the "atmosphere of terror" in the occupied territories.

Land Day marks the deaths of six Arabs and the wounding of 70 others in clashes with security forces during 1976 protests against expropriation of Arab land in Galilee. This year's anniversary, marked by the quietest Israeli Arab demonstrations in 10 years, was met with tense anticipation by the Israeli press. Most papers led their Land Day stories with extensive details about security measures being taken to meet possible outbreaks of violence by the demonstrators. One headline announced, "Today is Land Day — Alert in the Galilee, the Triangle and the Territories." Most stories reported a "high-level alert" among beefed up forces of "Thousands" of policemen, border police and army troops in Israel and the territories. One paper reported the police had set up "forward command posts" in Israeli Arab areas to deal with possible violence. Only one paper

noted that the police planned to keep a low profile during the demonstrations, and intervene only during "disturbances."

More attention was given to the Israeli security preparations than to Arab demonstrations themselves, or to the political debate in the Israeli Arab community over how to mark Land Day.

In the end, Land Day in Israel passed virtually without incident. Police were not to be seen in the Arab villages, where the demonstrations were held peacefully, in what was almost a carnival atmosphere.

Press preoccupation with perceived hostility or expected violence of Arab demonstrations is not altogether without reason. Land Day protests have been marked by violence in the past, and Palestinian demonstrations in the territories have not always been peaceful. Sensationalism also affects newspaper coverage of a wide range of events, including demonstrations by Jews, such as the settler protests which preceded the withdrawal from Yehudi.

Nevertheless, the descriptions in Israeli papers of the recent Arab nationalist demonstrations are telling reflections of Israeli anxiety over Arab political action in Israel and the occupied territories.

Congress might win battle but lose war over arms deal

By Sue Baker
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Congress is preparing a knockout blow to a bid by President Reagan to sell 2,600 advanced missiles worth \$354 million to Saudi Arabia but the president could still win in the end.

If lawmakers block the proposed arms sale it will be the latest in a series of defeats for a Reagan administration policy of arms sales to moderate Arab states.

It could also herald a battle over the scheduled delivery to Riyadh this summer of the first of five AWACS radar planes.

The House and Senate are expected to vote next week on a bill to block the sale, called a resolution of disapproval. A majority in both chambers support the measure and it is virtually guaranteed passage.

"This is absolutely unprecedented," said senator Alan Cranston, sponsor of a Senate measure to kill the arms deal.

It will be the first time that Congress has ever voted down a proposal for an arms sale and I think now is the time to draw that line."

But Reagan has promised an immediate veto if the bill lands on his desk and congressional aides

said it is not certain that Congress will be able to muster the two-thirds vote in each house needed to override the veto.

One aide said the Democratic-controlled House probably would be able to defeat the veto but the Republican-led Senate would allow the president to have his way.

Although battles over Arab arms sales, fuelled largely by the powerful pro-Israeli lobby in Capitol Hill, have been regular in Congress for a decade, Congress has never exercised its legislative right to block a deal. Strong opposition and threats of action have been sufficient to force a retreat.

Last year the administration yielded without a fight to congressional opposition to a proposed sale of 60 F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia and the Saudis purchased British Tornados instead.

The administration this year indefinitely postponed a \$1.9 billion sale of advanced planes and weaponry to Jordan.

But this time the administration appears ready to fight. State and Defence Department officials have been arguing Reagan's case in often hostile congressional hearings.

"Security cooperation is definitely the underpinning of the U.S.-Saudi relationship and we

cannot undermine our ties with our principal friend in the Gulf today and expect to rebuild them later," Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week.

The administration asserts that the weapons, including Stinger anti-aircraft and Harpoon anti-ship missiles, are to replenish a Saudi inventory that will be expended by the end of the decade when delivery is to begin.

U.S. officials say the sale is also intended to send a "signal" to Iran that it should not consider widening the Iran-Iraq war across Saudi borders and to assure Saudi Arabia of continued U.S. support.

But congressional opponents, led by Cranston in the Senate and representative Mel Levine in the House, contend the weapons could threaten Israeli security and give the Saudis a higher missile-to-plane ratio than both the United States and Israel.

Another factor appears to be what these opponents call Saudi Arabia's support of terrorism and a fear that the Stinger — described as the "perfect terrorist weapon" by several legislators — could fall into other hands.

"The Saudis have bankrolled the Palestine Liberation Org-

anisation (PLO) and Syria — the protectors of terrorists implicated in the murder of hundreds of Americans," Levine said.

"And the Saudis have sided with Muammar Qadhafi in our recent showdowns with the Libyan dictator," he said.

Many members of Congress used the recent U.S. attack on Libya to support their arguments, charging Saudi Arabia had offered to make good Libyan losses.

"Here we are literally in a war against Middle East terrorism and we're considering sending into the Middle East 800 Stinger missiles with which a terrorist could shoot down an American aircraft from five miles away," said Cranston.

Those legislators also contend that Saudi Arabia has done little or nothing to promote an Arab-Israeli peace settlement — an issue that will come to the forefront in June when Reagan is due to report to Congress before delivering the first AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) plane.

Congress in 1981 gave reluctant approval to the \$8.5 billion deal for five AWACS but only after insisting on presidential certification that Saudi Arabia had contributed significantly to the Middle East peace process.

U.S. Senate leader suggests review of Soviet trade curbs

By Robert Trautman
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Influential congressmen and others in the United States are suggesting that Washington might try easing curbs on trade with the Soviet Union in the hope that it would encourage Moscow to allow more people to emigrate.

The stick of denying Moscow so-called most-favoured-nation trade treatment, which makes Soviet goods in the United States about 10 per cent dearer, has not worked, they say.

Some Jewish leaders are among those who think a "carrot" might have more success in persuading Moscow to allow more Jews to emigrate while at the same time helping to improve the climate of Soviet-U.S. relations.

Senate majority leader Bob Dole has proposed the Senate consider suspending legislation,

that imposed special tariffs on Soviet exports under the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which was attached to the 1974 trade act.

The amendment, named for former senator Henry Jackson and congressman Charles Vanik, denies Moscow the most-favoured-nation treatment of lower tariffs Washington gives its best trading partners.

The measure has not promoted emigration as its backers had hoped.

Many members of the American Committee on East-West Accord, a group of businessmen, academics and foreign policy experts, support repeal of the amendment but it is not clear if there is enough backing in Congress to carry repeal.

Congressman Don Bonker, a Washington Democrat who sits on the House subcommittee on inter-

national economic policy and trade, said last week he saw no chance of easing U.S. trade policy to the Soviet Union in the near future.

Dole, a contender for the Republican 1988 presidential nomination, said in a speech last week one approach might be to suspend the amendment and give the Soviet Union most-favoured-nation treatment for a year. If this prompted increased emigration it could be extended.

Dole suggested the Senate could debate the issue when it considered broad legislation.

The Kansas Republican, addressing a meeting of the American Committee on East-West Accord, called for "some approach that doesn't at all reduce our concern for human rights and make it any easier for the Soviet Union to trample on the human rights of Soviet citizens."

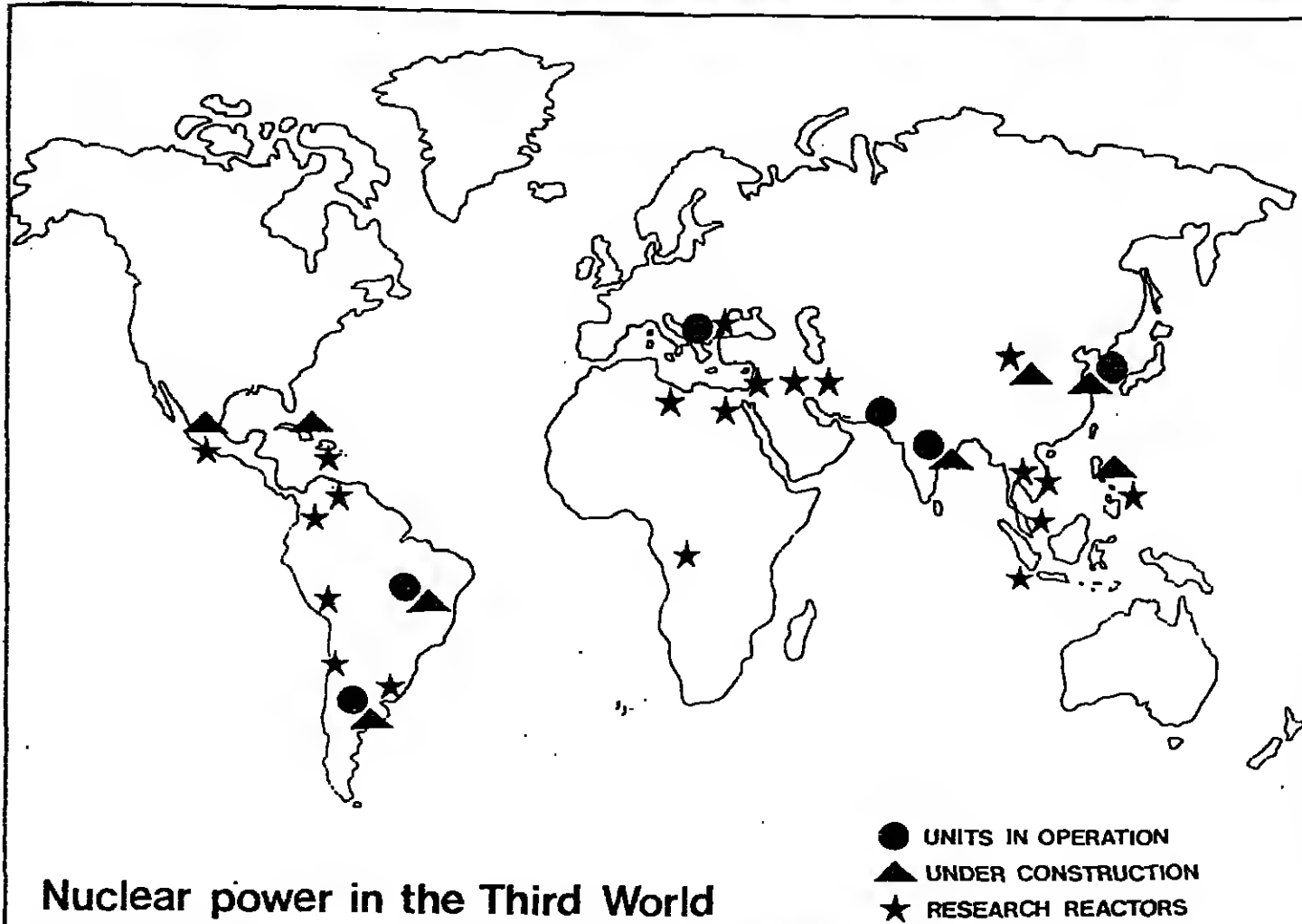
"While we don't have any right,

as they state, to interfere in their internal affairs, we cannot accept their right to violate fundamental human rights of the people in the Soviet Union."

All Communist countries that restrict emigration are denied most-favoured-nation trade treatment but the amendment was aimed at the Soviet Union and Dole suggested a review only of the restrictions on Moscow.

He said he did not know President Reagan's view on suspending Jackson-Vanik but many senators would not want to back suspension unless there was evidence of wider support.

Bonker said a ban on selling oil drilling gear to Moscow, imposed in 1978 following the arrest of dissident Anatoly Shcharansky — convicted by the Soviets of "years for the west — and others, should have been lifted when the dissidents were released in February.



Third World revival for nuclear power?

By Alain Zolty

Does China's new deal with the French nuclear manufacturer Framatome signal a new beginning for the nuclear industry in the Third World? Or is nuclear power, thought to be unsafe by many groups, still too expensive for developing countries?

PARIS — Six years without a single reactor sale ended recently for the nuclear industry when the French nuclear manufacturer Framatome signed an agreement with China for the construction of two 1,000 megawatt reactors. Does China's decision herald a revival of interest in nuclear power among the industrialising countries of the South?

Delegates from 86 countries at the September 1985 review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (a treaty signed by 120 nations which seeks to halt the spread of nuclear weapons while promoting the transfer of civil nuclear technology) reaffirmed their desire to see the largest possible peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The developing countries at the conference emphasized that nuclear power is too expensive for them, and they recommended the development of small to medium size reactors as a way of bringing down the cost. Nuclear exporters like Framatome, however, maintain that only large reactors are economically viable.

A relatively new factor which developing country governments

in favour of nuclear power now have to contend with is growing opposition to the nuclear option from their own citizens. The chemical accident at Bhopal, in India, has created a public mood in which the safety of industrial plants is being called into question in a way that would have seemed impossible several years ago.

The Sri Lankan Academy of Sciences has strongly recommended the deferral of a decision to opt for nuclear power following an uncontrolled fire in a chemical store near Colombo. In the Philippines a sustained campaign against the Bataan nuclear plant, located near volcanoes and in an area of major geological fault lines, may result in its permanent closure by President Aquino.

Malaysian and Hong Kong environmental groups are also strongly anti-nuclear. Allegations of increased incidences of certain cancers around nuclear installations in the U.S. U.K., and a series of radioactive leaks from Britain's Windscale reprocessing plant have done nothing to increase Third World confidence in nuclear safety.

Many NGOs in both North and

South view the ease with which nuclear bombs may be constructed under the guise of a civil nuclear programme as the biggest threat posed by this technology.

Israel and South Africa, who collaborate on nuclear matters, are each thought to have developed nuclear weapons capability under the camouflage of nuclear power reactors. There are suspicions that Brazil, Argentina, Libya, Iraq, Iran and perhaps South Korea could follow suit.

The presence of nuclear power plants in the Third World has aggravated international tensions. In 1981 the Israelis bombed Iraq's Osirak reactor, ostensibly to prevent the Iraqis from using the facility to build a nuclear weapon. Libya has not hidden its desire to possess the bomb, while South Africa's progress towards one has led politicians in neighbouring African states to declare that, should South Africa's goal be attained, they should acquire nuclear weapons themselves.

More recently the Shi'ite faction which killed French hostages in Lebanon demanded that France give back to Iran the \$1,000 million which the Shah had paid to the French consortium Eurodif to procure enriched uranium for his ambitious programme of eight nuclear reactors. The uranium is no longer needed due to cancellation of the reactors by Khomeini.

Last February a meeting in Nairobi of 150 non-governmental organisations criticised as inadequate the safeguards currently applied to civil nuclear technology under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The NGOs worry that a new application of laser technology could make these safeguards obsolete.

The material from which nuclear weapons are made, enriched uranium, is thus far in fairly limited supply, since there are few enrichment facilities. But the enrichment of uranium by means of laser beams promises a cheaper and less cumbersome enrichment process — one which would be more easily acquired, and would eliminate a major barrier to weapons construction.

While there is little to stop a determined government from acquiring nuclear weapons capability through ostensibly civil channels, the dream of cheap, clean nuclear electricity remains prohibitively expensive for those developing countries whose aims are purely civil. The recent Framatome sale is unlikely to be repeated in the near future, and even China has ruled out more than a minimal degree of dependence on nuclear power, opting instead for hydroelectricity. — Earthscan.

Alain Zolty is a journalist on the staff of Earthscan's Paris office.

The fashion people who are in fashion

Top French couturiers now boast that they are a profitable and export-oriented sector, no longer considered futile. Gordon Cramb reports on a \$2.8 billion-a-year industry's new-found self-assuredness.

PARIS — High-booted and wide-shouldered, the figures parol imposingly in the spotlight. Their kit of slate grey and verdigris, with flashes of Muscovite red, is completed with peaked cap and star on chest.

Paris, a few days after the centre-right's return to power, has taken on a distinctly Soviet aspect. The new government of Mr. Jacques Chirac may, however, be partially reassured by the news that the Russian invasion is so far confined to fashion week catwalks in the grounds of the Louvre.

Two of the country's leading creators of the post-Dior generation have chosen this theme for their shows. Thierry Mugler had his models strutting Red Guard-like through a Russian winter, while Jean-Paul Gaultier made prominent use of Cyrillic lettering. Serious political statements are clearly not to be expected from the twice-yearly offerings of the designer houses, and the Paris prêt-à-porter collections have never lacked theatricality.

For the current season of shows which has just ended, shrill pantomime is in many cases giving way to a calmer self-assuredness of an industry which no longer needs to assert its right to exist.

Some 40 years after the New Look, and with the French women's ready-to-wear industry now carrying a turnover tagput by some estimates at FF20 billion (\$2.83 billion), this is a rather late maturity. But changes are here and there under way in the structure of the designers' often precarious finances, following a significant revaluation of its national status brought about during the just-ended tenure of Mr. Jack Lang as Culture Minister.

Mr. Lang won loyalties partly by appearing at the occasional official function in an unconventional cut designer jacket, but Mr. Francois Lortard, his similarly youthful successor, will have a hard task in matching the more concrete achievements of the Lang era. Notable among these is the Musée des Arts de la Mode, the fashion museum at the Louvre opened in January by President Francois Mitterrand.

This accorded the fashion industry the recognition previously reserved for "traditional" arts, and 200 years of history has been instantly reclaimed.

It is an industry which has long been undercapitalised, however, where emergent designers have had to rely on backers with var-

ying degrees of patience. Even Dior has had financial difficulties and, despite the recent development of a second marche on the Paris bourse for smaller companies, flotations by design houses have been conspicuously absent.

Partly, this is because the creative talent often resides in one person, whose departure or demise would overnight turn the company into a virtual shell. Others argue that an average investor would not easily understand the cost basis of assembling a collection.

Fashion houses are nonetheless seeking other ways to secure their future in an increasingly competitive environment and more than 70 have been presenting their wares in Paris to the buyers from international retail outlets.

The Thierry Mugler company, now in its tenth year, is one example. The designer himself and two partners are in the process of negotiating the repurchase of a 75 per cent stake held by its Italian licensee.

Its board is also set to approve the opening of a Mugler shop in London next year, in addition to those in Paris and Brussels and a planned Geneva outlet. A Mugler perfume is also in prospect to compete with existing designer label fragrances.

According to Mr. Didier Grumbach, the Mugler president, the rapidly internationalising fashion

market — particularly the breakthrough this decade into and from Japan — requires a centralised management approach at the same time as diversification both geographically and by product.

A dominance of the industry like that held for many years by Dior, Cardin and Yves Saint Laurent will not be repeated, he says. Mugler, with its 100 full-time employees, has been in profit for the last five years, but the number of new bidders for the buyers' eye grows each season.

Mr. Grumbach is unhesitating in the recognition he accords to Mr. Lang's efforts.

"The main benefit we all got from this period is that we have come to be considered as a profitable and export-oriented industry. We are no longer considered futile. We are part of the image of our country."

Mr. Lortard, it appears, may need to do little more than tread water. "It is nobody's interest to return to the past," says Mr. Grumbach. "The work is done. I hope he will be supportive, but if he is not it wouldn't be a drama."

The collections for fashion week are, it should be remembered, for the winter of 1986-87. By that time, the garb which adorns the French body politic may be of an entirely different cut and hue — Financial Times news feature.

What Lyndon Larouche believes

By William M. Welch
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Lyndon H. Larouche Jr. thinks the Queen of England is involved in drug trade, the United States is headed for economic collapse and the Holocaust is fiction.

He is a perennial fringe candidate for U.S. president who usually gets few votes. But Larouche has gained new attention in light of last month's startling Democratic primary victories by two of his candidates in the state of Illinois and an abundance of Larouche candidates across the U.S. In the Illinois races, Larouche's candidates declared Americans were responding to the views held by their leader: opposition to a law mandating a balanced federal budget, calls for widespread testing and quarantining to combat the disease AIDS and condemnation of white-collar drug traffickers.

Those were some of the positions the Larouche candidates put forth in a primary which, for the most part, generated little interest until they won.

But they are just a few of the positions Larouche espouses.

A sampling: — Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is a "Soviet agent-of-influence."

— "Zionism is 'crazy... cult nonsense.' The Holocaust was 'mythical.' Israel 'is ruled from London as a zombie-state.'"

— The Queen of England is involved in drug trade.

— Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos "was opposed to me and he fell as a result."

— Poland's trade union Solidarity is "British-infiltrated" and threatens Poland with "economic ruin, starvation and social chaos."

— The FBI and the anti-defamation league of B'nai B'rith share "complicity in the assassination of (India's) Prime Minister Gandhi and the killing of the 329 passengers on the June 23, 1986, flight of Air India flight 182."

— The United States faces economic collapse this year. President Ronald Reagan's economic policies are unchanged from Jimmy Carter administration's and U.S. defence capability "is being destroyed right now," by budget cutting.

Larouche, 63, a four-time candidate for president, expounds these views in prolific writings and in a calm voice that grows excited when challenged.

His attacks can be vicious, and his critics often are dismissed as part of the "drug lobby," crazy, Communist or homosexual. At a

recent news conference, Larouche snapped at a questioning reporter. "How can I talk with a drug pusher like you?"

An issue of his New Solidarity newspaper last month said Secretary of State George Shultz should be tried for treason for selling out allies. "Let's give Shultz a fair trial first — and then bang him," it said.

Dismissed by Democratic Party regulars as a kook, Larouche gained just 150,000 votes in a dozen 1984 primaries despite airing nine rambling — and expensive — half-hour broadcasts on national television.

Since the Illinois primary, Democratic Party officials have sought to inform voters about Larouche's candidates and his views in hopes exposure will evaporate support.

"It's the rantings and ravings of a mad man," said Democratic national committee spokesman Terry Michael. "It's not ultra-left or ultra-right to say Queen Elizabeth is a drug pusher. It's ultra-crazy."

Underlying Larouche's views is a vast, complicated web of global conspiracies, some centuries old. He sees shadowy links between the Soviet KGB, British intelligence, the conservative Heritage Foundation research group, the FBI, the Anti-Defamation League and international ter-

rorists. Larouche frequently cites obscure 19th-century German writers and secret European societies.

In a recent telephone interview, Larouche said this:

"History is nothing but conspiracies. There are lawful processes which determine what kind of conspiracies work and what kinds don't, but history is nothing but the history of conspiracies intersecting what the laws of history will allow to happen."

Asked to explain his claim that the British royal family is involved in drug trade, Larouche responded: "The Westminster act of 1787, which put the British government in the drug business, and they've never gone out of it."

A spokesman for British information services at the British consulate in New York, Stewart Grainger, said he had never heard of "The Westminster act of 1787" and could find no such reference in the index of acts of British parliament.

Larouche grew up in Massachusetts and in the late 1940s and early 1950s was a member of the Socialist Workers Party, a Trotskyite group.

He ran for president in 1976 on the U.S. Labour Party ticket, but by 1980 was running in Democratic primaries and had made an apparent shift to the right.

Americans debate pornography

By Michael Roddy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sexually oriented material, which some people call art, entertainment or literature and others call pornography, is under attack in the United States.

Fundamentalist religious groups, such as Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority, have campaigned to stop sales of Playboy, Penthouse and other magazines featuring photos of nude women.

One nationwide convenience-store chain, while claiming the pressure tactics had nothing to do with it, is removing them from company-owned stores.

In New York's Times Square a city-backed policing effort over the past several years has closed dozens of massage parlors and similar businesses for which the area is renowned. The mood among owners of such establishments is decidedly downbeat.

Lamented one Times Square peepshow operator, whose arcade faces demolition to make way for new development. "What is this obsession with sex?"

A national commission on pornography, established by President Ronald Reagan to examine the extent of the problem and to recommend legislation, is due to make its report this summer.

Committee members are reluctant to talk about what they might recommend. But to the Rev. Bruce Ritter, a Roman Catholic priest and commission member, pornography is "a very serious problem."

Ritter, who runs a shelter for homeless children just off Times Square, said that a previous presidential commission, which in 1970 concluded no new laws were needed to cope with pornography, "performed its duty at a time when porn was barely in its infancy."

"Things have radically changed... with VCRs, dial-a-porn, R-rated movies, satellite (TV) porn... none of these things existed when the 1970 commission issued its report," he said in a telephone interview.

The anti-pornography movement seems to be spurred on by at

least two factors. One is that conservative religious leaders, like Falwell, who take strict positions with regard to pornography, have a receptive audience at the White House.

When he announced the formation of his commission, Reagan said, "it's time to stop pretending that extreme pornography is a victimless crime."

Another is that pornographic materials have become much more widely available, and in a greater variety of forms, than 15 years ago when the last presidential commission studied the matter.

At that time, a rough estimate of the value of the pornography business was about \$2.5 billion a year. Today, testimony before the Reagan commission has put the figure at anywhere between \$5 billion and \$7 billion, commission spokesman Dee Kuhn said.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which sued to obtain access to commission materials in advance of its final report, is alarmed that proposals it is considering could infringe on personal freedoms.

The ACLU says the commission may propose measures to regulate sex-oriented programmes on satellite and cable television, prosecute producers and actors who appear in porn movies under prostitution statutes and create a computerised data base for sex-related criminal investigations.

"Law enforcement efforts will literally frighten people out of expressing themselves about sexual matters," said Barry Lynn, a legislative counsel in the ACLU's Washington office. "... we could return to some kind of sexual dark age when we are afraid to produce something about sex."

Defining what constitutes pornography is a key issue in the controversy.

Lynn said pornography is "a matter of taste."

He said his organisation approves of efforts to eradicate the use of children in pornographic materials — but only the production of it, not people who collect it.

In other instances, he said "We

don't think the government should act as a literary critic."

But the Rev. Donald Wildmon, head of National Foundation for Decency in Tupelo, Mississippi, a member of the presidential commission, defines pornography by examples.

Some of those he mentions are movies like "Debbie Does Dallas" and "Deep Throat."

Such films, as well as magazines and other materials, "are a very destructive instrument," he said. "They are degrading to women, they are anti-family," he said in a telephone interview. "They have no true picture of the family or the elderly or children or anything of that nature."

Publisher Bob Guccione, whose Penthouse magazine is one of those being removed from the racks at 7-11 Convenience stores, disagrees.

He said that Falwell and others opposed to his magazine "would like all of us to meet his own personal religious criteria for the American way of life."

Pornography, Guccione said, "is just a catchall term for anything they don't like and approve of."

The movement to regulate pornographic materials has sparked divisions in the diverse U.S. feminist movement.

Betty Friedman, founder of the National Organisation for Women, the largest such organisation, said at a news conference in January that anti-pornography legislation would infringe on civil liberties.

"The first target would be feminist books," she said.

The organisation Ms. Friedman founded has made curtailing pornography one of its major programmes.

A resolution passed by now at its national conference in New Orleans last year said that pornography "promotes sexual assault and is used increasingly and commonly in battery and rape and forcing women and children into prostitution."

The resolution said the group endorsed legal measures to regulate pornography and urged local chapters to monitor its circulation.

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China to compete in 1988 Seoul Olympics

PEKING (R) — China said Tuesday its athletes will compete in the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

A National Olympic Committee spokesman told Reuters that China had recently registered for participation with the International Olympic Committee (IOC), but did not say exactly when.

The announcement was the first formal notification that China, widely viewed as a potential athletic powerhouse, would attend the Games.

China's haul of 32 medals in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics included 15 golds.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said in South Korea at the weekend that he was confident all 161 Olympic teams would compete in the Games.

He was referring to North Korea's threats to boycott the Olympics unless it receives a share of the events.

Officials from the two Koreas are due to hold a third round of

talks at the IOC's Swiss headquarters in June in an attempt to find a compromise.

The 1984 Games marked China's first appearance at the Olympics since the 1949 communist revolution.

China's announcement coincided with Samaranch's visit to Peking where he presented a Gold Olympic order to vice-premier Wan Li, who is responsible for Chinese sport. The order is given to government leaders who distinguish themselves in the Olympic movement, the New China News Agency said.

The agency said Samaranch earlier told legislators that Chinese athletes' presence "created a great future at the Los Angeles Olympic

Games which the Chinese people have taken great pride in."

Samaranch also said during his visit to Peking that the 1990 Asian Games which will be staged in Peking would be the first step for China towards hosting a future Olympics.

Samaranch said table tennis would be added to the Olympic programme in 1988 and badminton in 1992, noting that China was strong in both sports.

Asked whether Chinese martial arts could be included, he said this would be difficult because Olympic sports should be practised in more than 60 countries.

But the New China News Agency quoted him as saying martial arts could be staged as a demonstration if China held the Olympic Games in the year 2,000.

Zico returns to Brazil squad

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Zico, Brazil's brilliant goalscoring midfielder, has recovered from a knee injury in time to return to their team for Wednesday night's key World Cup warm-up soccer match against Yugoslavia in Recife.

His return in midfield alongside Falcao and Elzo together with the imminent arrival of the rest of Brazil's Italian exiles has given a much-needed boost to the Brazilians' preparations for the finals after a series of disappointing displays in warm-up games.

Coach Tele Santana admitted as much when he said: "With Zico

back, Brazil will regain their personality."

Team doctor Neylor Lasmar guaranteed that Zico would be 100 per cent recovered from his recent knee injury. He had been under intensive treatment for a damaged knee for more than a month and at one point seemed set to undergo surgery.

Even though Brazil have frustrated their fans with their poor performances, Santana said no-one should worry.

"I cannot guarantee that Brazil will win the title, but I am positive that we will do very well," Santana said.

Syria wins Tarif opener

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Syrian cycling team pulled off a surprise victory Monday in the first event of the 1986 Tarif International Race, winning the team time trials by covering the 100 kilometre distance in two hours, 22 minutes, and 53 seconds.

Pre-race favourites had been a more experienced Italian club and the Tarif Cycling Club, organisers of the race and overall champions of last year's competition. The Italian team, nipped in the last minutes by the Syrian squad, finished in second place with a time of 2:24:12, followed by Saudi Arabia in 2:36:07 and Tarif Cycling Club in 2:37:35.

Tarif's effort suffered a serious setback at the 40 kilometre mark when team captain Jihad Sakr was forced to drop out of the race after a collision rendered his bike inoperable.

Earlier, an Egyptian team had been disqualified due to lack of proper headgear.

On Wednesday, the 120 kilometre individual race will be held, beginning at Queen Alia International Airport and ending at Jordan University. Last year's individual event was won by Tarif's Ziad Al Dumoor, with Tarif's Samer Hashem finishing second.

Real is favoured in first-leg UEFA match with Cologne

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid go in search of their eighth European trophy Wednesday night when they face Cologne of West Germany in the first leg of the UEFA Cup final.

It will be Real's 13th appearance in a European final and confidence has seldom been higher in the Bernabeu Stadium after their runaway triumph in the Spanish First Division championship.

Although defenders Chendo Portan, Antonio Maceda and Manuel Sanchez will be absent through injury and suspension, coach Luis Molowny will be able to field a team which stands comparison with the great Real line-ups of the past.

Argentine striker Jorge Valdano, who missed the thrilling semifinal win against Internazionale Milan because of suspension, returns to the Real team and West German international goalkeeper Toni Schumacher will face an attack bristling with goal-powers.

Valdano will link up with Mex-

ican Hugo Sanchez, top scorer in the Spanish First Division, and Spain's newest sensation Emilio Butragueno, now back to top form.

Cologne winger Pierre Littbarski, who scored twice on his return at the weekend after a seven-week absence through injury, would dearly like to collect a UEFA Cup winners' medal before joining French club Racing Paris next season.

But even Littbarski was forced to concede: "I think we're going to lose... Real are unbeatable at home. But 2-0, or even better 3-1, would be the kind of result which would give us a chance in the return."

Cologne manager George Kessler said Real were favourites on three counts: "They are league champions, they haven't played for 10 days and we haven't recovered from the nerves of possible relegation."

But Molowny was not fooled by such pessimism and he pointed to the fact that, despite finishing a lowly 13th in the West German Bundesliga, Cologne had shown their true potential in the UEFA Cup semifinals when they crushed Waregem of Belgium 7-3 on aggregate.

However, the West Germans' morale suffered another blow Monday when UEFA upheld its decision banning them from playing the home leg against Real at their Mueggenporter stadium because of their fans' behaviour.

Juventus will miss Trapattoni

By Clare Fallon
Reuter

ROME — When the champagne stops flowing in honour of Juventus' 22nd Italian league title, the club will have to face the cold facts of life without trainer Giovanni Trapattoni after a fabulously successful 10-year alliance.

Juventus have won every major international and domestic soccer honour under his guidance. The championship shield won on Sunday was Trapattoni's sixth since he joined the Turin giants as an inexperienced trainer in 1976.

Not surprisingly, players immediately dedicated the latest prize to the former international defender who is leaving Turin for Internazionale Milan.

"Few people can understand what this goodbye means to me," said Trapattoni after the Zehras' hard-won 3-2 victory over relegation-threatened Lecce had clinched the league title. "Juventus have given me so much. I will take fantastic memories with me."

Only Roma threatened to spoil Trapattoni's final season. Two weeks before the end, they stole ahead of Juventus on goal difference.

But Lecce, the surprising protagonists of the final weeks after an otherwise disastrous debut in the top division, became the only side to beat the Romans at home all season and so ended their title challenge.

A defeat at Como in the final round left Roma four points adrift of Juventus, but with the consolation of a European Football Union (UEFA) Cup place for next year, along with Napoli, Torino and Fiorentina.

For the first time, neither Milan side has got through to next year's European competitions, although Internazionale still have a chance through the Italian Cup, which reaches the quarter-finals next month.

At the other end of the table, Pisa and Bari join Lecce on the return trip to the Second Division after just one season at the top. Their replacements will not be decided until the Second Division championship ends in mid-June. The soccer federation has warned that the league table could be

changed if any club or player proves to have been involved in a big bribery and illegal betting scandal now under investigation.

But officials have confirmed that Juventus' league title, which they won back from last season's first-time winners Verona — a disappointing 10th this year — is safe.

Trapattoni's final triumph with Juventus came largely thanks to two players he brought in as part of a major shake-up of the side last summer — international striker Aldo Serena and Dane Michael Laudrup.

Serena, who moved from local rivals Torino, scored Juventus' final goal after an exchange with Laudrup, the young Danish striker who has flourished alongside Frenchman Michel Platini, the inspiration of the Juventus attack.

It was Serena who opened the season's scoring with a goal in the first match against Avellino at the start of a run which saw Juventus equal their own record of eight straight wins.

Critics had predicted that the re-styling of the side following the departure of Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek, World Cup heroes Paolo Rossi and Marco Tardelli and Beniamino Vignola, would unsettle a team already unnerved by the violence which marked their first European Cup triumph last year.

Riots before the final against former European Champions Liverpool of England in Brussels killed 39 people, most of them Italians.

Juventus went through a crisis this spring, crashing out of the European Cup in the quarter-finals at the hands of Spain's Barcelona and winning only one of five league matches while Serena was sidelined with a leg injury. Trapattoni described the Bru-

ssels tragedy as "an open wound" but admitted that winning the European Cup was one of the high points of his time at the club.

The others would be Bilbao in 1977 when he won the UEFA Cup, Juventus' first international trophy, and Tokyo last December when he reached the highest honour, the World Club Championship, and there was nothing left to win for the first time," he said. Juventus won the championship against Argentinos Juniors on penalties after drawing 2-2.

Ten years ago, Trapattoni had a glorious past as a player with AC Milan and Italy. He enjoyed a reputation as the man who stopped Brazil's Pele in a 1963 friendly which Italy won 3-0, but he had precious little experience in management.

Then Juventus rang him out of the blue and offered him a job. "I thought it was a joke," Trapattoni recalls. "Why should such a glorious and ambitious club have picked on me when I was a newcomer? But what else could I say except that I was honoured by their interest?"

Trapattoni took firm control from the start of a team which then featured Dino Zoff, Roberto Benigni and Franco Causio. In his first season they won the league title and the UEFA Cup.

Juventus President Giampiero Boniperti has described him as a father to the players and Trapattoni admits he will miss the team. International defender Antonio Cabrini, after scoring Sunday, ran straight to the bench to hug Trapattoni.

But, at the age of 47, Trapattoni felt the need for a change. Like a sailor I feel the excitement of a new voyage," he said. "I need to put myself to the test somewhere else."

Hans-Peter Briegel moves to Sampdoria

GENOA, Italy (R) — West German soccer international Hans-Peter Briegel has joined Italian First Division club Sampdoria from Verona. No details of the transfer were disclosed but Italian newspapers said Sampdoria had paid \$670,000 for Briegel, who will earn around \$400,000 per year. Briegel, 30, joined Verona from Kaiserslautern of West Germany two years ago and was a major influence when the club won the Italian First Division championship for the first time last season. Briegel, who has signed a two-year contract, will replace Scotland World Cup captain Graeme Souness, who has been appointed player manager of Glasgow Rangers.

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NOTICE

Aqaba Railway Corporation Supply of one high capacity diesel-powered breakdown crane invitation for tender no. 11/86

Aqaba Railway Corporation invites sealed tenders for design, construction, supply and delivery including testing and commissioning of a 120 tonnes to 150 tonnes capacity diesel-powered road or road-cum-rail breakdown crane to be used mainly for clearing operations.

The offer for the breakdown crane including spares and accessories shall be submitted with and without financing proposal.

Interested parties may obtain further information, if required, from the office of Aqaba Railway Corporation, P.O. Box 50, Ma'an, Jordan (Telex No. 62225 ARC JO, Telephone 32114/32234, Ma'an) after purchasing the tender documents obtainable from the corporation's office at Ma'an or ARC's representative in liaison office in the Ministry of Transport, Amman, upon payment of non-refundable fee of JD 120/-.

All tenders must be accompanied by a tender bond of 5% of the contract value. The sealed tenders must be handed over to the Chief Clerk of ARC's office at Ma'an or in the Ministry of Transport office at Amman on or before 12 hrs. on 14th July, 1986.

Mardi Gatamin,
Director General

والى الأردن روثمان

Rothmans JORDAN RALLY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organising committee of the Rothmans Jordan Rally and the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan wish to express their thanks and gratitude to all the government ministries, official departments, commercial companies, groups, societies and individuals who assisted and cooperated in the successful organisation and running of the event.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The May Fair, which was due to be held on 1 May at the British Ambassador's Residence in aid of Jordanian charities, has been postponed until later in the year.

SOUND AND LIGHT AT JERASH

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

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Performances: 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00

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Admission, behind Alia offices
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THE PROTECTOR
(Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5480/90	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3803/08	Canadian dollars
	2.1720/30	West German marks
	2.4470/85	Dutch guilders
	1.8170/80	Swiss francs
	44.25/30	Belgian francs
	6.9150/9200	French francs
	1490/1491	Italian lire
	167.80/90	Japanese yen
	7.0090/0140	Swedish crowns
	6.8990/9040	Norwegian crowns
	8.0400/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	342.40/90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed sharply higher partly for technical reasons after recent steep falls but also partly in response to encouraging figures from Blue Circle. At 1427 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 27.1 to the day's high of 1,655.8.

Blue Circle met profit-taking towards the end of the session to close 43p higher at 716 after a peak of 726 following pre-tax 1985 profits of £116.9 million which were above the lowest estimate of £103 million and £113.2 million pre-tax last year.

Dealers said the technical side to Tuesday's gains came from bargain hunters picking up stock from last week's lower levels when the FTSE 100 index dipped by over 60 points.

Full year figures from Tarmac showing pre-tax profit of £135.2 million in 1985 against £109.6 million last year also helped share prices to rise. Tarmac finished 8p up at 486p. Elsewhere in the building materials sector Pilkington put on 10p to 458p.

The leaders showed ICI 15p higher at 934 while Hanson Trust closed 12p up at 179 and Vickers 15p firmer at 473. Guinness finished 17p up at 313 and Courtaulds 9p higher at 280. GEC rose 14p to 208 following a brokers' meeting Monday. Other electricals were sought with Plessey 8p up at 246.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

FORECAST FOR WED., APRIL 30, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is excellent for organizing your life and activities so that you have the good will and active support of those who are prominent or in positions of power.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't scatter your assets around so that you lose out on regular income and security. Avoid being sarcastic to your mate.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Work on the details of any important contracts you are formulating with others and be sure of what is written or stated.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Analyze your work well and eliminate any mistakes that may be in it, and then you can safely go on with it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't delve into extremely expensive entertainment during the day, since tonight you can enjoy the tried and true.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You seem to have too much work to do, but if you plan your hours wisely, you can soon finish it and have time for other activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get your special talents working and you win favor. Be sure to plan the future sensibly. The evening is fine for socializing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Plan what it is you want to do at home in the evening and you can make it much happier. Get your house in tip-top shape.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You may find it hard to communicate with those you wish to see in the morning, but after lunch, it is easy to do so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You may find snags connected with your practical affairs, but keep at them and you get the right results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Plan how to gain what you desire, even if the progress is slow at first, but later get fine results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get at the duties that only you can handle and they are soon completed during the day. Seek out charming people later in the day.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Work by yourself during the day and get fine results. Tonight you get added support from others.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will early in life be a good student and realize the importance of having a good education and will learn to be practical. Your progeny can make a fine impression on bigwigs upon reaching maturity. Religion is important.

Saudi oil income below budget in 1984/85 fiscal year

By Dina Matar
Nasser

BAHRAIN — Saudi Arabia's oil revenues fell by nearly 18 per cent in the 1984/85 financial year and were 21 per cent below the budget target, the official Saudi Press Agency said Tuesday.

Quoting the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) annual report, it said oil income for the year, which ended in March 1985 fell, to 119 billion riyals (\$32.6 billion) from 145 billion (\$39.7 billion) the previous year. The figure fell short of the budget target of 150.9 billion riyals (\$41.3 billion), apparently reflecting both lower oil prices and production.

Oil revenue normally accounts for about two-thirds of total government income.

The report gave no figure for total revenue in 1984/85, but said total expenditure was 216 billion riyals (\$59.2 billion), down from 230 billion (\$63.1 billion) in 1983/84. This was 17 per cent below the budget figure of 260 billion riyals (\$71.2 billion).

The government last month decided to defer a decision on the budget for the 1986/87 financial year which began on March 11, saying oil revenues were too difficult to forecast.

The 1985/86 budget projected both income and expenditure at 200 billion riyals (\$54.8 billion).

But in the absence of official figures, bankers and economists in the region estimate annual spending was no more than 160 billion (\$43.8 billion).

Government revenues peaked

at 368 billion riyals (\$100 billion) in 1981/82, soon after its oil output reached some 10 million barrels per day (BPD).

Oil production dropped to a 20-year low of two million BPD last summer, and while it has now risen to over four million, oil prices have dropped by more than 50 per cent since the beginning of 1986.

Bankers and economists see further cuts in spending in the 1986/87 budget as inevitable, although the government says it now has no need to spend heavily on major projects since the country's infrastructure is largely completed.

The SAMA report, delivered to King Fahd Monday, said imports fell 16 per cent in 1984/85 to 107 billion riyals (\$29.3 billion).

The balance of payments surplus declined by 16 billion (\$4.4 billion) "because the drop in revenues was more than the drop in import payments," it said.

SAMA gave no figure for the payments surplus, but its previous annual report put the 1983/84 current account surplus at a provision 64 billion riyals (\$17.5 billion).

The report said overall inflation was held at zero for the second successive year, while the cost of living index fell 1.2 per cent.

In the non-oil sector, the report said agricultural output grew by two per cent last year, industrial production by 1.8 per cent and electricity output by 10 per cent.

The construction sector, apparently hard-hit by the decline in spending on new projects, showed no growth, it said.

West German economy heading for high growth

BONN (R) — West Germany's leading economic institute have painted a glossy portrait of the country's prospects, forecasting that this year will bring the highest economic growth since Chancellor Helmut Kohl took office in 1982 and the first significant cut in joblessness this decade.

In a joint semi-annual report, the top five independent research institutes predicted the economy will grow by 3.5 per cent in 1986, well above the 2.4 per cent seen last year and the highest rate of expansion since 1979.

"All indications are that the upswing will continue into next year," the institutes said.

Mr. Kohl's centre-right government, facing a general election next year in which high unemployment is the major issue, said the report confirmed the success of its policies.

The forecast should also strengthen Mr. Kohl's hand at the forthcoming Western economic summit in Tokyo, where the United States is expected to continue pressuring Bonn to stimulate domestic demand in a bid to boost European growth.

But the prediction is slightly lower than the four per cent expansion that the Bundesbank, the

country's central bank, has said is possible.

The report said unemployment will fall to an average 2.23 million this year from 2.30 million last year, when 9.3 per cent of the labour force was out of a job.

Inflation should fall to a 34-year low of just 0.5 per cent this year after 2.2 per cent last year, helped by the recent fall in oil prices and the weaker dollar.

Domestic demand will be the main pillar of economic growth this year, with a sharp rise expected in consumer spending and another strong increase forecast for corporate investment.

This will offset an expected slowing in the rate of export growth, which fuelled the previous three years of economic recovery.

West Germany's exports will increase by only three per cent this year, less than half of 1985's 7.2 per cent rise. Import growth, forecast at 5.5 per cent, will be nearly twice as strong as the expansion in exports.

Despite this, the institutes said West Germany's trade surplus would hit a new record of 100 billion marks (\$46 billion) this year because imports would become cheaper while export prices remained little changed.

EC cash crisis unresolved; aides set '87 spending target

LUXEMBOURG (R) — The European Community's (EC) current cash crisis remains unresolved despite agreement by EC finance ministers on strict spending guidelines for next year, diplomats said.

Ministers, following a formula hammered out in 1984 to keep Community spending in check, agreed to fix a guideline of 35.3 billion ECUs (dollars) for spending by the 12-nation group next year compared with a final 33.3 billion ECU (dollar) budget this year.

But they left unresolved the question of how to deal with this year's huge cash shortfall caused by the fall of the dollar and the cost of past promises to pay for schemes in the group's poorer regions.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister) Nigel

Lawson welcomed the readiness of ministers to maintain the principles of Community budget discipline in agreeing next year's spending guidelines.

"We have ahead of us a great problem of Community finance, but there is a readiness to grapple with it," Mr. Lawson said.

But Dutch Finance Minister Onno Ruding, who chaired Monday's meeting, said that despite Monday night's agreement, most budget problems remained and member states were still split over the main priorities for spending.

The EC's Executive Commission, which deals with the

group's day-to-day running, has estimated that this year's budget could be overshot by more than 2.5 billion ECUS (dollars).

Diplomats said this would put spending around 4.5 billion ECUS (dollars) over original budget discipline guidelines set by ministers last year to keep the 1986 budget in check.

Mr. Lawson told journalists that the Community had clearly not stayed within its guidelines for 1986, but the dollar's sharp fall had been exceptional and the principle of budget discipline had not been abandoned.

There was no question of asking for an increase in the EC's main source of income, the share of value added tax (VAT) levied by member states, which was raised to 1.4 per cent in January this year and is not due to be increased again before 1988, Mr. Lawson

said. But a commission report presented to ministers Monday said that if the true cost of the EC's policies were accounted for, the 1.4 per cent rate had already been breached last year.

Ministers also failed Monday to ease a long-standing feud with the European Parliament over the budget.

A parliament delegation ended talks with ministers saying there was no point discussing 1987 spending plans until the 1986 budget was settled.

On Wednesday, the parliament is due to fight a case in the European Court of Justice brought by the EC's Council of Ministers which claims the assembly overstepped its strictly defined budget powers by reinstating cuts made by ministers in the 1986 budget.

Italians seek to have a piece of stock market boom

MILAN — The streets of downtown Milan were dotted recently by crowds of people staring at the screens in bank windows which had the latest flashing prices of shares on the bourse.

A fever has gripped Italy: Hundreds of thousands of first-time small investors are pouring money into the stock market as though they were buying lottery tickets. Last year's unprecedented bull run, which saw the Banca Commerciale Italiana (BCI) share index grow by more than 100 per cent, shows no sign of letting up.

Only a couple or so weeks ago, the market rose by nine per cent and gained five per cent in a single day. Daily trading volume is averaging a record 1400 billion (\$2.5 billion).

Capitalism becomes mass phenomenon

What is happening is that the boom on the bourse — originally fuelled by fundamentals such as large-scale industrial restructuring, falling inflation, reduced labour costs, dramatically

improved corporate profitability, political stability in Rome, and the substitution of exorbitantly priced bank loans for companies with share capital from the market — has taken on a populist complexion. Capitalism — and the quest for capital gain — has become a mass phenomenon.

In one way, it is a satisfying, optimistic development which reflects the turnaround which Italy has experienced over the past six years.

Surge alarms senior leaders

On the bourse, however, there is more than a whiff of danger: Italy has always been a country of exaggeration. The country's most senior leaders are now alarmed that the stock market could go too far too fast.

Normal Anglo-Saxon standards for analysing shares have never meant much in Italy, but price-earnings ratios have now been virtually discarded as the average hovers between 20 and 40.

To take but one example, it is hard to see how even the most suc-

cessful restructuring at Fiat, the country's largest private sector conglomerate, can justify the fact that Fiat ordinary shares, which stood at L3,000, 12 months ago, are today worth L10,500.

Fiat shares rose by 19.6 per cent in one week recently.

Average yields of two or three per cent mean as little as price-earnings ratios; the game is capital gains. Since the start of this year, the BCI stock market index has jumped by nearly 50 per cent. Stockbrokers say they are working until midnight and weekends to keep up with orders, while the bureaucratic backlog at banks which act as clearers with the Bank of Italy's Milan branch is becoming a logistical nightmare.

As a result, banks are issuing investors with a type of promissory note instead of share certificates, which can take months to be processed.

Still, the popular phenomenon continues. Newly authorised unit trusts have attracted \$20 billion of funds from more than one million small savers in the past 15 months.

Even though the unit trusts have been selling heavily in recent weeks, taking profits on doubled and tripled investments, hundreds of thousands of first-time savers are going directly into the bourse, buying with what seems almost blind ignorance.

Dr. Estore Fumagalli, chairman of the Milan bourse, complains of the lack of selectivity in share buying and estimates that there may be up to three million individuals playing the market at present. He is worried that a clampdown by the authorities — the possibility of which was hinted at by Treasury Minister Giovanni Goria — could have a negative effect on a fragile and overblown market.

Symptoms of investment fever abound. Sales of Il Sole 24 Ore, the Italian equivalent of the Financial Times have risen to nearly 300,000 copies, a doubling of circulation in just over three years. A rather sophisticated guide called "How to read Il Sole 24 Ore" and

priced at \$19 has sold 100,000 copies.

In Milan recently, white-collar workers at RAS, the country's largest insurance company, blocked the streets for part of a day as they went on strike demanding the right to stock options.

Taxi drivers in Milan will ask passengers carrying a copy of Il Sole for Fiat or Olivetti share prices. One banker said he was asked the price of Fiat shares by a toll-booth collector on the motorway.

L'Unita, the official organ of the Communist Party, recently introduced share listings after a flood of demands from faithful party member-investors.

Mr. Carlo De Benedetti, the Olivetti chairman who also controls a personal industrial and financial empire, was among the first of Italy's new generation of entrepreneurs to understand and make use of the market mechanism. He has used a variety of companies to tap the Milan Bourse for around L1,400 billion of capital in the past year. But now he, too, is concerned at the wild demand on the Milan Bourse is far outstripping the supply of paper.

"The market is over-bought," says Mr. De Benedetti, adding that "the prices are too high and make no sense." Nevertheless, he sees the growth of the stock market — total market capitalisation has gone from \$28 billion in January 1985 to nearly \$75 billion at present — as "an historical and structural trend, not something which will last for six months, but for the long term."

As evidence, he cites the fact that Italy has now overtaken Japan as the country with the world's highest savings ratio.

Mr. Leopoldo Pirelli, chairman of the leading tyre and cables group which bears his family name, also expressed his concern recently at the way the market is rushing ahead. In contrast, Mr. Vario Schimberni, chairman of the Montedison chemicals group, does not appear worried.

Financial Times news feature.

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

- 1 City name
- 2 Word with back or baked
- 3 Stunned
- 4 Rubber tree product
- 5 Ruas, mountain range
- 6 Dark blue
- 7 Violent
- 8 Stern
- 9 Slips into a whole
- 10 Swiss painter
- 11 Chamber of horrors
- 12 Letters
- 13 Sward
- 14 Next to
- 15 Gears
- 16 Soot
- 17 Solar system giant
- 18 Cannibal for one
- 19 Wallops
- 20 Snub
- 21 What lovers lose in
- 22 Extra-virgin
- 23 Actress
- 24 Patricia
- 25 Party game
- 26 Fishbones
- 27 Daily of
- 28 "Hello Daily"
- 29 Modern life
- 30 Son vivant
- 31 Lady for
- 32 Fortday
- 33 Peter out
- 34 Penicillin
- 35 Exp. country
- 36 Savilla
- 37 Hip bones
- 38 Ruler city
- 39 Telephone for one
- 40 Rumples
- 41 Name for

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1. BIRD	2. PEARL	3. PAIR
4. BELL	5. GARDEN	6. LUMBER
7. LIA	8. PRAY	9. APPLE
10. SCAR	11. PIPARTIST	
12. MYNNA	13. LION	
14. ABASH	15. DEERIE	16. TICE
17. REMY	18. UNIDENTALIST	
19. FATE	20. FORTNIGHT	
21. STEVE	22. GEO	23. LAPE
24. ORNAMENTALIST	25. LOOPS	
26. VICTORIA	27. JOLIE	28. TUNIA
29. TUSLEY	30. SEERS	31. RIDING
32. CHERRY	33. TIGRY	34. TIRIE

DOWN

- 1 Saver
- 2 Adversity
- 3 Catchall
- 4 Official stamp
- 5 Outside
- 6 Peaves
- 7 in — (attack)
- 8 Flagellate
- 9 More speedy
- 10 Turk. city
- 11 Sideliner
- 12 of sorts
- 13 Coliving
- 14 Waller items
- 15 — sienna
- 16 Fundamental
- 17 Melancholia's father
- 18 Jet set members
- 19 Sign
- 20 Neoclassical
- 21 Joff's partner
- 22 Midsummer
- 23 night's event
- 24 "She — yes
- 25 studies...
- 26 Peak
- 27 Work hard
- 28 Bicycle
- 29 Built for Two
- 30 Goofy
- 31 Sniffing herb
- 32 "She — yes
- 33 Memory slips
- 34 Winning
- 35 Humdrum
- 36 — the bill
- 37 Three
- 38 Church part
- 39 Increase
- 40 Arduous
- 41 journey
- 42 Desires
- 43 — of — shanter

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RODUG

VORLE

ABBOMO

DURECE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: ONE [] TO [] (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FLOOD OCTET EMERGE CUPFUL

Answer: What you might get when this wool is pulled over your eyes — "FLEECE"

Reagan to stress freedom, trade in Bali talks, summit

GUAM (R) — President Reagan said Tuesday he would stress the connection between freedom and economic growth as well as his commitment to free trade when he meets Asian and other allied leaders later this week.

The president left Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii Monday, crossing the International Date Line and heading for the Indonesian island of Bali.

After talks there with Indonesian President Suharto and meetings with foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Mr. Reagan will go to Tokyo for the annual summit of leading industrialised democracies.

"In the days ahead we will be hearing this message of freedom," he said in arrival remarks during a brief stopover at Andersen Air Force Base on Guam.

"We will reaffirm America's commitment to free markets and free trade ... we will stress the connection — the necessary connection — between freedom and economic growth and we will lay plans to expand world trade even further," Mr. Reagan told servicemen and their families gathered to welcome him.

Mr. Reagan's "winds of freedom" trip to Asia, as he has called it, got off to a shaky start after Indonesia rejected high-level U.S. pleas and stood by its decision to deny entry to two Australian journalists travelling with the White House.

The move resulted from a report in an Australian newspaper of alleged corruption in the Suharto government.

The Sydney Morning Herald alleged that Suharto and his family had amassed \$3 billion in personal wealth during his 20 years in power.

The reporters, Richard Palfreyman and James Middletoe of the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) said they would continue on the White House aircraft from Guam to Bali.

Mr. Reagan said that in his meetings with Mr. Suharto and the ASEAN foreign ministers he would reaffirm the importance the United States places on cooperation with its Pacific allies.

He also plans to raise the issue of Kampuchea and again called for Vietnam to withdraw its troops

and agree to ASEAN calls for a negotiated settlement.

White House officials said other topics for discussion would include regional security and trade. Mr. Reagan said in an interview with Asian journalists published at the weekend that a unilateral Soviet military buildup in the Pacific continued unabated.

"U.S. forces remain committed to promoting regional security by deterring Soviet expansionism," he said.

Mr. Reagan will have his first meeting with a member of the new Philippine government of Corason Aquino when he holds talks with Vice-President Salvador Laurel on Thursday.

White House officials said the session would probably focus on efforts to resolve the economic problems of the Philippines.

Mr. Reagan has said he would support a multilateral framework to support Philippine economic recovery and that the United States would take part in a World Bank sponsored meeting to coordinate donor efforts.

The Reagan administration last week announced a new \$150 million aid package for the Philippines.

The subject also will be raised at the 12th annual economic summit on May 4-6 when leaders of

Japan, West Germany, Italy, France, Britain and Canada join Mr. Reagan in Tokyo.

Meanwhile a New York Times correspondent was detained by Indonesian authorities Tuesday and put on a plane to Jakarta just a few hours before President Reagan was due in Bali, U.S. embassy sources said.

They said Bangkok-based Barbara Crossette, an American, was detained by security men as she stood with a group of journalists waiting for President Suharto to end a meeting with South East Asian foreign ministers.

Around 700 Indonesian and foreign correspondents are on the island to report on Mr. Reagan's trip.

But Crossette had been denied a visa to come to Bali and flew here on a tourist visa.

The sources said she had come on the understanding from Indonesian officials that she would be granted accreditation once she arrived.

She was packed off to Jakarta without her luggage.

Crossette covers South East Asia for the Times and has frequently travelled to Indonesia. She was barred from Bali because of articles considered to be anti-Indonesian.

Bishops seek end to reliance on nuclear deterrence

MORRISTOWN, New Jersey (AP) — Bishops of the nation's third-largest denomination Tuesday were putting finishing touches on the strongest declaration against nuclear weapons yet by a major American religious body.

"No, a clear and unqualified no, to nuclear war and to any use of nuclear weapons," says the proposed document, a teaching statement by the United Methodist Church, which has 10 million adherents.

It goes further than the tough anti-nuclear positions and criticisms of U.S. nuclear policy by the Episcopal Church in 1982 and by U.S. Roman Catholic bishops in 1983. Both conditionally accepted deterrence.

"Nuclear deterrence has become a dogmatic license for perpetual hostility between the superpowers and for their rigid resistance to significant measures of disarmament," says the Methodist document, which has been two years in preparation leading up to Tuesday's vote by about 100 bishops.

"Nuclear deterrence has too long been revered as the idol of national security," blinding proponents to "requirements of genuine security," it says.

U.S. to retire 2 subs to avoid refitting costs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the decision to retire two aging Poseidon submarines was based on the high cost of refurbishing them and not on a great commitment to the SALT II arms accord.

Answering questions Monday during a meeting of the Pentagon's advisory Commission on Women, Mr. Weinberger appeared to suggest he had not fought too hard to save the two subs despite his belief the United States should abandon the SALT II accord.

He also made a point of saying a decision on the deployment of air-launched cruise missiles would be made on the basis of "what is militarily best and most cost effective, not whether or not it complies with these rather artificial restraints of SALT II."

Mr. Weinberger's remarks on the decision to retire the submarines Nathan Hale and the Nathan Hale marked the first public confirmation by a top administration official of the president's decision. The White House has said only that President Ronald Reagan made a tentative decision on the matter and was consulting with European allies before announcing it.

"It's fair enough to say that the president's decision essentially was that the two submarines themselves — having been built for a 30-year hull life and having had pretty close to a 30-year hull life

— to be perfectly frank about it, were not worth the very large cost of keeping them in service," Mr. Weinberger said.

"And so not so much with respect to SALT II, or its provisions or its restraints, but simply on a cost-effective decision on what's the best way to spend our very limited resources ... it was better not to put them into trying to rehabilitate or keep going two submarines that were of that age...."

The Nathan Hale was commissioned in 1964 and the Nathan Hale in 1963. The navy has said refurbishing would take two years, cost \$150 million to \$170 million per ship, and give them another five to six years of life.

By contrast, it will cost the navy about \$20 million to deactivate the vessels.

Nonetheless, Pentagon sources have said that as a matter of policy, Mr. Weinberger has opposed dismantling American missile-carrying submarines to comply with SALT II. That accord was never ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Last year, Mr. Reagan ordered another Poseidon submarine dismantled to remain within the SALT II limits on multiple-warhead missiles despite what sources said were Weinberger objections.

The issue has arisen again because of the scheduled start of sea trials next month for the Nevada, the eight and newest Trident submarine.

Libyan children burn books

LIBYAN children burned books and maps described as "reactionary" in an effort to show their determination to bring about Arab unity, the official Libyan News Agency JANA, reported Tuesday.

JANA, monitored here, said "hubs and cubs" of the Libyan revolution "burned reactionary books, maps which mark international frontiers and imported cultural books." The burning took place during a demonstration Monday in the town of Negat Khamis, in western Libya, JANA added.

3 hanged in Malaysian jail

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia Tuesday hanged three men for drug peddling and illegally having firearms. A prison spokesman said two had been found guilty of peddling raw opium, heroin and morphine in 1981. The third man had been found with four pistols and 30 rounds of ammunition in 1984.

Troops go hungry after mess officer takes money

MANILA (R) — A battalion of soldiers fighting Communist rebels in the southern Philippines has gone hungry because the mess officer vanished with the money, military sources said Tuesday. They said the soldiers have been missing meals since Capt. Onan Harun, who kept the payroll money and food allowances, disappeared from their headquarters in Cotabato province last week. The soldiers were trying to raise money for a reward for anyone who could give information on his whereabouts.

Parrot gets plastic leg

TALLAHASSEE, Florida (AP) — A parrot named Sunshine had been hopping about his cage on one leg, since he came out the loser in a tangle with a Siberian husky. But now, with help from prosthetic designers John and Jeff Fredrick, the bird is taking life on the run again. "Believe me, we did some serious thinking," said John Fredrick, 24, co-owner of Rehabilitation Engineering. "How do you strive for perfection with a bird? We had to take into consideration climbing, stepping on a perch and sometimes walking on the bottom of the cage." The brothers spent six weeks building their flighty patient a tiny wire claw and lightweight plastic cast to fit Sunshine's half-toe (1-centimetre) stump.

Human brain found at bus stop

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — Two teen-age boys found a human brain on the ground next to their school bus stop, but officials said it was an anatomical specimen and no foul play was suspected. "I thought somebody had been killed and the brain had been left behind," said Adair Lee, 14, who discovered the brain along with Allen Ricks, also 14. Dr. William F. Hamilton, the chief medical examiner, said the brain had been professionally removed. He said officials had not been able to determine who removed the brain, where it came from or how it ended up on a city street. The seventh-grade boys knew what they had found because of a recent biology class, and decided to take the brain to their teacher.

Mysterious thieves wipe out vipers

TEL AVIV (AP) — The reptile house at Tel Aviv's Zoological Gardens became a den of thieves and vipers overnight when robbers stole a deadly collection of snakes and scorpions. The theft, the fourth in recent months, wiped out the original collection of 40 snakes, Zoologist Boas Ben Yaakov said. "There's nothing left," he said. Spokeswoman Dalia Dromi of the Nature Preservation Society estimated the damage caused by the thieves in the thousands of dollars. "They broke a window, protective bars and the glass boxes housing the snakes," Dromi told the Associated Press. This time the thieves' catch was 15 snakes including deadly poisonous vipers and adders. They also took scorpions, rats and mice, Dromi said.

Pretoria pledges to fight threats against reform

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa said Tuesday its apartheid reforms were threatened by radical terror but pledged determined maintenance of law and order to guarantee the safety of people and property.

State-controlled Radio South Africa, in a daily commentary that reflects government thinking, said more than 500 mostly black moderates had been killed by radical blacks since unrest began in September 1984.

Meanwhile Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shrikant Ramphal said Monday Nelson

Mandela is the only man who can save South Africa from calamity. He was speaking at the opening of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair.

At the fair grounds in Bulawayo, capital of the southern Matabeleland province bordering South Africa, Sir Ramphal blamed Pretoria's race segregation policies of apartheid for many of southern Africa's social, economic and political problems.

The cost of apartheid in human terms, to the region, was incalculable, said Sir Ramphal.

U.S. master spy claims recruiting his best friend

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Master spy John Walker has told a federal court he recruited his best friend, Jerry Whitworth to steal U.S. military secrets although both knew the seriousness of the crime.

Walker, 48, who pleaded guilty last year to spying for the Soviet Union, took the stand Monday in the trial of Whitworth, the fourth member of the so-called Walker family spy ring.

Prosecutors contend espionage carried out by the ring was the most serious breach of U.S. security since World War II.

"I made him swear a blood oath if he would cooperate that he would not turn me in," Walker said on a meeting between the two at a San Diego restaurant in September 1974.

"We knew the penalty. We knew it was the most serious crime in the country," Walker said. Walker was sentenced to life in prison after pleading guilty late last year but agreed to testify against Whitworth in exchange for a more lenient sentence for another member of the spy ring, his son, Michael Walker.

Walker's brother, Arthur, was convicted for his role in the espionage operation last year and may also testify against Whitworth, 66.

Walker told the jury he planned in 1974 to retire from the navy but wanted to continue delivering military secrets to the Soviet Union.

He said he walked into the Soviet embassy in Washington early in 1978 and sold code data for between \$1,000 and \$2,000. "I simply walked in the front door," he said.

Walker described in detail how he was instructed by Soviet agents to drop off stolen secrets without detection and how to use a miniature camera to photograph documents.

He said he was paid mainly with \$50 bills. Smaller bills were too bulky and, at least in the 1960s, \$100 bills were still being registered at banks, he said.

The government estimates that the spy ring collected about \$1 million from the Soviet Union for its efforts, and at least \$332,000 went to Whitworth.

He is charged with eight counts of espionage and co-spying and five counts of failure to report income to the Internal Revenue Service for tax purposes.

Savimbi sees major U.S. military aid programme

MUNHANGU, Angola (R) — Guerrilla leader Jonas Savimbi says U.S. aid to rebels fighting Angola's government has begun arriving and appears to be the start of a major assistance programme.

Mr. Savimbi told journalists in this central Angolan railway town that government troops helped by Soviet and Cuban forces were expected to launch their biggest offensive against his UNITA movement next month.

He said a three-pronged attack would aim to wipe out the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola and destroy its headquarters at Jamba in the south of the country.

Mr. Savimbi, whom President Reagan earlier this year promised \$15 million of covert military aid, said non-lethal supplies had begun arriving about April 18. He declined to be drawn on whether he had received any Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

Asked if more aid would follow, he said: "I think the commitment I got from the administration is that this is the beginning, this is not the end."

South African defence experts say Stingers would greatly boost UNITA, which has no combat aircraft but may face Soviet-made MIG-23 interceptors and Hind helicopter gunships.

Mr. Savimbi, wearing a U.S. army field jacket, said American aid had begun arriving. "The aid

process has started but we did not reach yet the arms process but we think it is coming."

Pressed to say if Stingers had arrived, he said: "I think that will be free intelligence. I may have them, I may not."

"If the Americans get involved that is to give U.S. \$10 million, \$15 million, what is that in weapons, it is nothing," Mr. Savimbi told a press conference.

"It is better not to give it unless that is the beginning of a major programme which may really tip the balance of power in the country," he added.

The sporadic rumble of heavy guns which UNITA officials said were 20 kilometres north punctuated Friday's press conference on a platform of a derelict railway station.

Journalists, who travelled 700 kilometres for three days and two nights on an open truck from a bush airstrip near the Namibian (South West African) border to reach Mr. Savimbi, arrived in South Africa Tuesday. There are no communications links to the area.

A Reuters reporter walked about one mile through heavily mined hush in single file with soldiers to reach the station, in the town where Mr. Savimbi was born and his father was station master. Twenty minutes earlier, a guerrilla who stayed from the path had his foot blown off by a mine.

20 die in Punjab bus crash

NEW DELHI (R) — At least 20 people were killed and several seriously injured when two buses collided head-on at Dehlon town in northern Punjab state Tuesday, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

The crash brought the death toll

from road accidents in northern India to more than 100 in three days.

The worse crash was on Saturday when a bus carrying pilgrims to a Hindu shrine in the Himalayas plunged down a gorge killing 45 people.

West European ministers agree on aircraft cooperation

MADRID (R) — Defence ministers from 13 West European countries have agreed to promote cost-saving cooperation in the aircraft industry, including two rival projects for a new fighter plane, officials said.

They said the two projects were definitely going ahead, with Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain working on the multi-role European Fighter Aircraft (EFA) project, and France pressing on with its lighter Rafale fighter.

France last year said the EFA did not meet its military requirements and dropped out of the venture.

The ministers, belonging to the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG) agreed in a one-day meeting here to look at all types of military aircraft and their equipment to identify opportunities for cooperation over the next 20 years.

They also received an initial report on a data-gathering project to collect all battlefield information and feed it to several centres of decision.

The complex system, called Eurodata Distribution System, would make it possible to run a war from several points, one official said. It will be further studied at the next IEPG meeting scheduled for next autumn at junior ministers level.

A joint communiqué said a decision on the Eurodata system should be made by the next ministers' meeting, next spring.

Spain, which voted in a referendum last month to remain a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, chaired the meeting. Belgium, Britain, Denmark, West Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and Turkey took part.

The communiqué said the ministers were determined to press ahead with technological cooperation and harmonising military requirements to strengthen Europe's contribution to NATO.

Spanish Defence Minister Narcis Serra told a news conference the meeting "showed the will of European countries to develop European, rather than national, projects."

Official sources said several European countries were looking at the EFA and Rafale projects, and both were open for new partners to join at a later stage.

The \$20-billion EFA project is for a revolutionary aircraft in which a cockpit computer would handle the controls. The powerful, Delta-winged plane, designed to spearhead NATO's West European strikeforce into the next century, is scheduled to make its first flight this year.

The lighter, cheaper Rafale, designed as a ground attack fighter for the 21st century, is also scheduled to make a first test flight this year.

U.N. begins debate on cash shortfall

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has warned a special session of the General Assembly that the world body's viability is threatened by financial crisis.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who called the session to discuss the organisation's shortfall of \$106 million, said Monday the crisis was mainly political in nature.

U.N. officials say the problem has built up over the years largely because 18 countries, including the Soviet Union and the United States, have failed to pay about \$100 million in dues earmarked for activities of which they disapprove.

In a report earlier, Mr. Perez de Cuellar termed this the worst financial bind the United Nations has ever experienced.

Western diplomats said the unwillingness of some Third World states to confront the reality of the cash shortage and a tendency to blame big power politics for it might "make the implementation of approved badly-needed economies difficult."

Economies recommended by Mr. Perez de Cuellar include cutting costs and often overlapping programmes, reducing the Annual General Assembly session by three weeks for a saving of \$1.1 million and suspending secretariat recruitment and promotions.

Three-quarters of the annual budget of \$830 million goes to the 11,600 secretariat staff.

Assembly President Jaime Del Pinies of Spain appealed to delegates to adopt the recommendations. Debate was expected to continue for several days.

Talking to correspondents shortly before he addressed the assembly, the secretary general said the United Nations must not be blackmailed and reductions in assessments could be negotiated.

The United States is asking that its assessment of 25 per cent of the budget be cut to 20 per cent. In the meantime, because of con-

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Karmal's medical treatment taking longer than expected

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan officials say President Babrak Karmal missed a big parade in Kabul because his medical treatment in the Soviet Union is taking longer than expected, Western diplomats said Tuesday.

The envoys, quoting reports from Kabul, had no information about the nature of Karmal's illness, which the officials admitted for the first time since he left the Afghan capital on March 30.

The officials implied Mr. Karmal, 57, who was rumoured to be suffering from a lung ailment or possibly leukaemia, was still somewhere in the Soviet Union, they added.

Kabul buzzed with speculation about his fate. But it appeared Mr. Karmal had not been dismissed despite criticism of his government in the Soviet newspaper Pravda printed to mark Sunday's eighth anniversary of the 1978 Communist takeover in Afghanistan, the diplomats said.

Pravda, in its clearest sign yet of rumoured Kremlin impatience with Mr. Karmal, criticised the Kabul government for not winning more popular support and for "failings which have hindered the revolutionary process in Afghanistan."

Soviet representatives were conspicuously absent from the Sunday parade, which Mr. Karmal should have addressed and Moscow's ambassador should have attended, they added.

Three possible successors were on the podium reviewing the parade — Prime Minister Sultan Ali Khatmand, Security Chief Najibullah and Central Committee Secretary Nur Ahmad Nur. But only Defence Minister Maj.-Gen. Nazar Mohammad addressed the parade.

The diplomats reported heavy security for the three-hour parade, saying roads into the capital were blocked that day and all cars, taxis and buses were checked for weapons.

The armed forces showed no new equipment, displaying their regular Soviet-made T-54 and T-55 tanks, armoured vehicles, towed 112mm Howitzers and some SA-2 guideline and SA-3 Goa surface-to-air missiles, they said.

But, in a new twist to the increasing sophistication of the

Communist war effort, four MIG-27 swing-wing tactical fighter jets landed at Kabul airport on Sunday, they said.

Afghan rebels first reported seeing the high-performance jets, bombing a key guerrilla base at Zhawar near the Pakistani border earlier this month.

The envoys said Kabul airport did not have the facilities to service the MIG-27, a special attack aircraft known by its NATO designation "Flogger-D and J."

Kabul saw an upsurge of rebel rocket and bomb attacks before the Revolutionary Day celebrations but there were no incidents during the parade, the diplomats said.

Eight rockets hit the city on Sunday night after the official ceremonies and two fell very close to the British embassy, they said.

The envoys reported gunfights around the prime minister's palace, near airport, close to the British and Austrian embassies and near the Soviet base at Khairkhana.

Seven rockets fell around Kabul airport last Friday and there were eight unexplained explosions around the city the following evening, they said.

Soviet aircraft have stepped up their defences against rebel heat-seeking missiles, spewing out over 100 decoy flares every time they take off from or land at Kabul.

Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost has left Kabul to attend United Nations-sponsored peace talks with Pakistan next week, Bakhtar news agency reported Tuesday.

Mr. Dost, who left Monday, usually stops in Moscow for talks before going to Geneva, but the official Afghan news agency did not say where he would be before next Monday's opening of the latest round of negotiations.

Mr. Dost and his Pakistani counterpart Sahabzada Yaqub Khan are due to discuss a draft timetable for the withdrawal of about 115,000 Soviet troops presented by Kabul to U.N. mediator Diego Cordovez.

The mysterious absence of Afghan President Babrak Karmal, who missed the Revolutionary Day parade in Kabul on Sunday and Soviet criticism of his government



Babrak Karmal

should not effect the talks significantly, Pakistani diplomats said.

The negotiations appeared deadlocked late last year when Kabul insisted it meet directly with Islamabad, which only deals through Mr. Cordovez because it does not recognise Mr. Karmal's Soviet-backed government.

But the two sides have since agreed to indirect talks until the whole peace package is developed and then meet as equals.

Western diplomats said last week they feared a new Afghan leader could claim more legitimacy than Mr. Karmal and slow down the talks with fresh demands for direct meetings.

Pakistan has rejected Kabul's timetable as too long, saying it would prefer a pullout within six months rather than over years. Western diplomats in Pakistan believe the secret draft calls for an 18-month withdrawal.

Mr. Cordovez was unusually optimistic last month after a special shuttle between Islamabad and Kabul, saying the next round would be the last in the talks he has led since 1982.

Mr. Cordovez acts as a go-between in the talks because Pakistan refuses to deal directly with what it considers the illegitimate Karmal government.

Afghan media have made no mention of an Indian press report last week that Kabul wanted New Delhi to join Washington and Moscow as guarantors of any agreement, which would also provide for an end to outside support for Muslim rebels and a return of refugees from Pakistan and Iran.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan quoted a U.N. spokesman last week as saying Mr. Cordovez had never received such a proposal.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF ©1985 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

THE KING IS DEAD

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J34

♥ KQ10

♦ 986

♣ K1092

WEST

♠ K